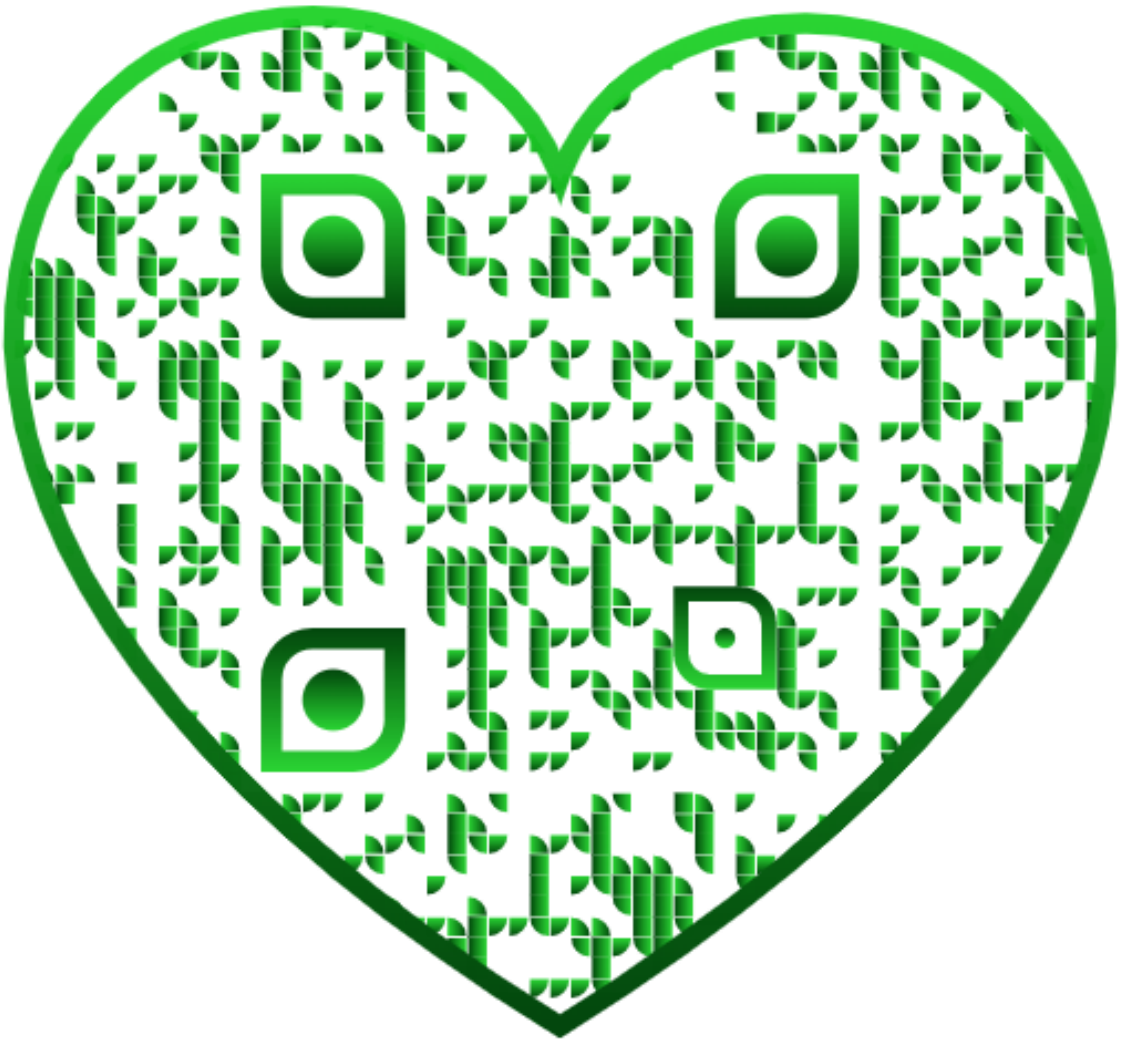
SPECIAL 35th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!
KERRANG!
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
KERRANG!



SPECIAL 35th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!
KERRANG!
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
KERRANG!

CONTENTS

35 Years Of Living Life LOUD!

ISSUE 1623 JUNE 11, 2016

HELLO READERS, and welcome to not just the new issue of Kerrang! – but our 35th birthday party! Weirdly, though, it's us giving *you* the presents! Because not only does this issue come with an amazing CD of Iron Maiden covers, but on p20 starts the biggest, most star-studded Download 2016 preview you could ever hope for! Not only that, but on p30 we cheer on England to Euros victory via an all-star footie-focused poster special, and on p4 we share the birthday joy by showing you all the cool messages and cards we got in the post from the biggest bands in our scene. Sadly, this issue isn't actually made of cake. Impractical. But believe us when we say we're having a slice just for you. Enjoy the issue!

James
Editor

NEWS We share the 35th birthday messages from some of our famous friends – including **Metallica**, **Ozzy**, **Iron Maiden** and **Panic! At The Disco (p4)** – catch rap-rock supergroup **Prophets Of Rage**'s live debut in LA **(p8)** and, after **Of Mice & Men**'s difficult 12 months, sit down with Austin and Aaron to talk about their "flammable" new album **(p10)**.

FEATURES **Maiden**, **Sabbath**, **All Time Low** and more head up our mahoosive Download 2016 preview, featuring stage times, signing tent info and WWE NXT details, too! You'll be needing this come the weekend even more than you will tent pegs **(p20)**. Plus: we go inside the devilry that inspired **letlive.**'s stunning new album **(p42)**.

POSTERS Back of the net – it's a Euros special. *GOOOAAAL* **(p30)**!

LIVES It's a Slam Dunk meltdown! We've got all the action from Hatfield, as **Panic!**, **Of Mice & Men**, **New Found Glory** and loads more light up **(p46)**!

ALBUMS We give a gigantic salute to **Motörhead (p50)** as they release their final-ever live album. There's also new stuff from hotly-tipped pop-punks **With Confidence (p51)**, and **King Diamond (p53)** tells us the terrifying story of his classic Abigail album!

GIGS **Beach Slang** itch to return to the UK **(p56)**, while promoter Mikey Shiraz tells us why Huddersfield rocks **(p58)**.

CAKE: JACQUI KELLY, TOTALLY SUGAR **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES

CAN'T GET TO THE AWARDS?

Can't make it to the Kerrang! Awards? Don't worry! You can still watch the live stream and read the live blog on Kerrang.com, plus you can follow the event on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Periscope and Snapchat!

KERRANG! RADIO
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TROXY
WWE 2K17

NEWS

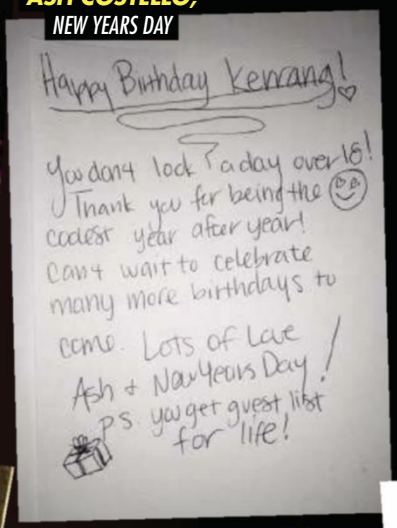
THE BIG STORY

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING EVER

HAPPY 35TH BIRTHDAY, KERRANG!

WE'RE SPENDING OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY READING MESSAGES FROM THE LEGENDS THAT HAVE BEEN WITH US SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING, SUCH AS **METALLICA**, **IRON MAIDEN** AND **OZZY**. AND THOSE WHO'VE BROKEN THROUGH THESE PAGES IN RECENT TIMES, LIKE **LINKIN PARK**, **FALL OUT BOY**, **PANIC!** AND MANY MORE. THEN WE'RE GETTING PISSED…

ASH COSTELLO, NEW YEARS DAY

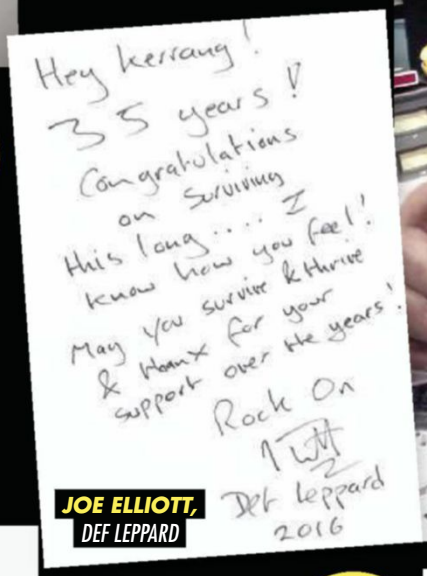


"We all grew up reading Kerrang! and it helped shape our music taste, which, ultimately, has helped shape the sound of Architects. It's provided a platform and a mouthpiece for an often misunderstood counterculture that is larger than your average Joe realises."

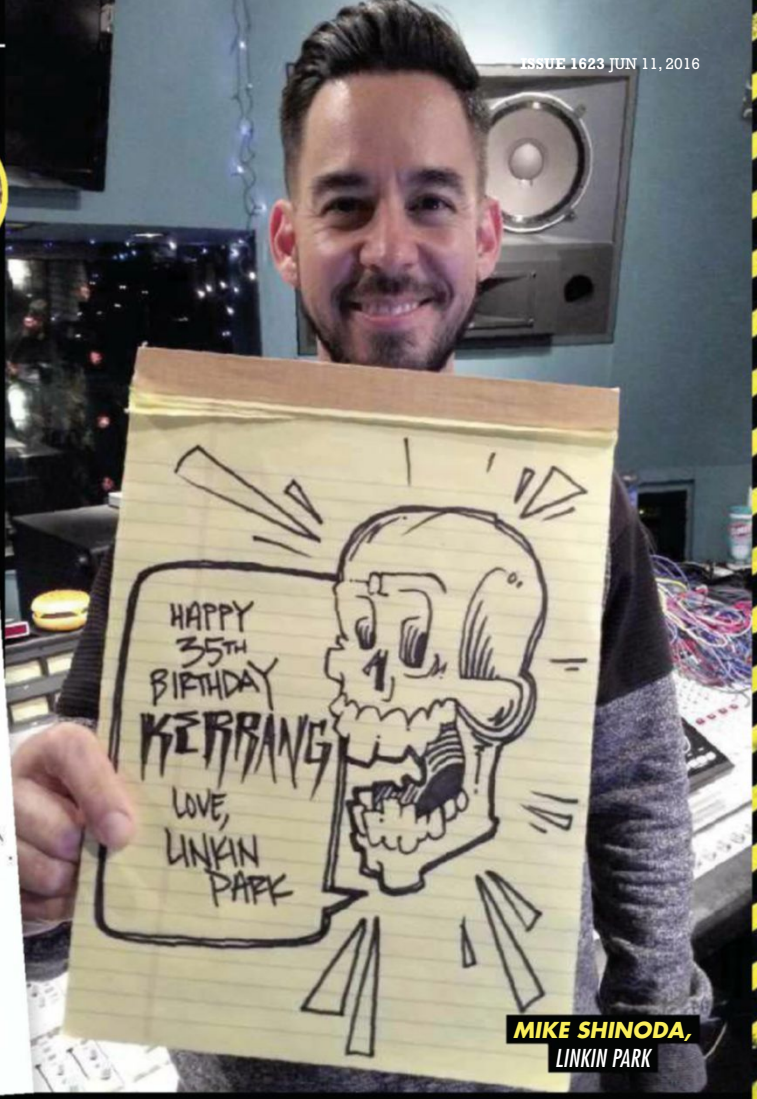
DAN SEARLE, ARCHITECTS

"A BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO KERRANG! – 35 YEARS OF ROCKING AND NOT LOOKING A DAY OVER 12!"

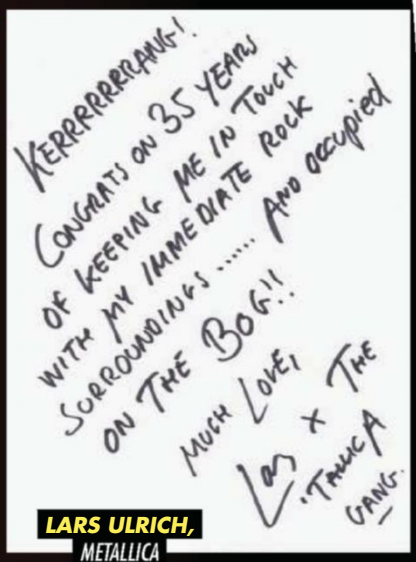
ROYAL BLOOD



JOE ELLIOTT, DEF LEPPARD



MIKE SHINODA, LINKIN PARK



LARS ULRICH, METALLICA

"CONGRATULATIONS – THAT WAS A KILLER YEAR TO BE BORN! HERE'S TO MANY MORE!"

STEVE HARRIS, IRON MAIDEN

COUNTERFEIT

"HEY KERRANG!, THANKS FOR BEING SO METAL FOR SO LONG. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE MAGAZINE THAT 'GOES TO 11'."

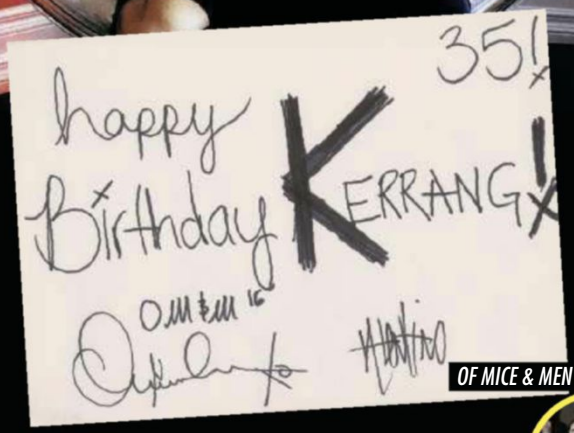
TOM MORELLO

GOOD CHARLOTTE

BEN BARLOW, NECK DEEP

NEWS

KELLIN QUINN, SLEEPING WITH SIRENS

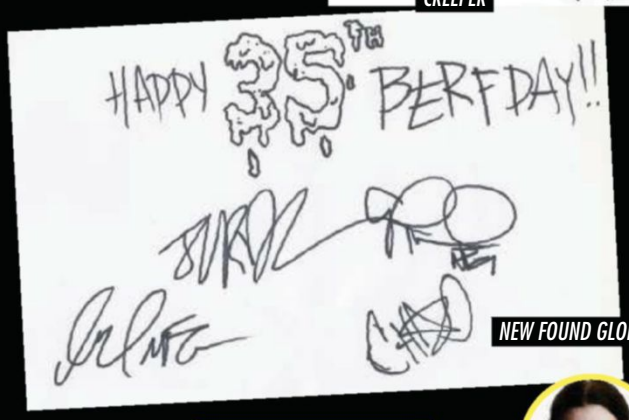


OF MICE & MEN

CREEPER

"Growing up as rock kids, Kerrang! was our bible, so it was really exciting to see you support us from the very beginning. We've had some great times along the way – hitting the K! tour with The Bronx, visiting Iceland for one of our early covers and, of course, the legendary awards parties. Here's to another 35 years! C'mon the K!"

BIFFY CLYRO

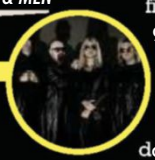


NEW FOUND GLORY

"Fucking hell – 35 years! I remember when you guys first came out – the very first one. I went, 'Well, that's not gonna last very long – what the fuck's that name mean?' Then someone told me that it's like a guitar – *KERRANG*! And it's great that you're still here, and that I'm still here and we're still doing stuff together. The cool thing about the start of something like that is that there are no rules or boundaries, nobody knows what they're doing, really – we're all just having a laugh. That's what's kept Kerrang! going for so long. And me as well, I think!"

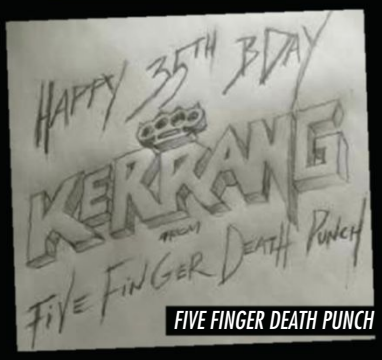
OZZY OSBOURNE

MIKEY CHAPMAN, MALLORY KNOX



"Kerrang! and Judas Priest – joined at the metal hip for 35 years of metal mayhem with unforgettable, and unforgivable, rock'n'roll memories. Here's to the next 35 years!"

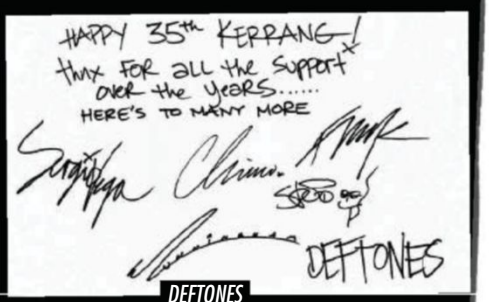
JUDAS PRIEST



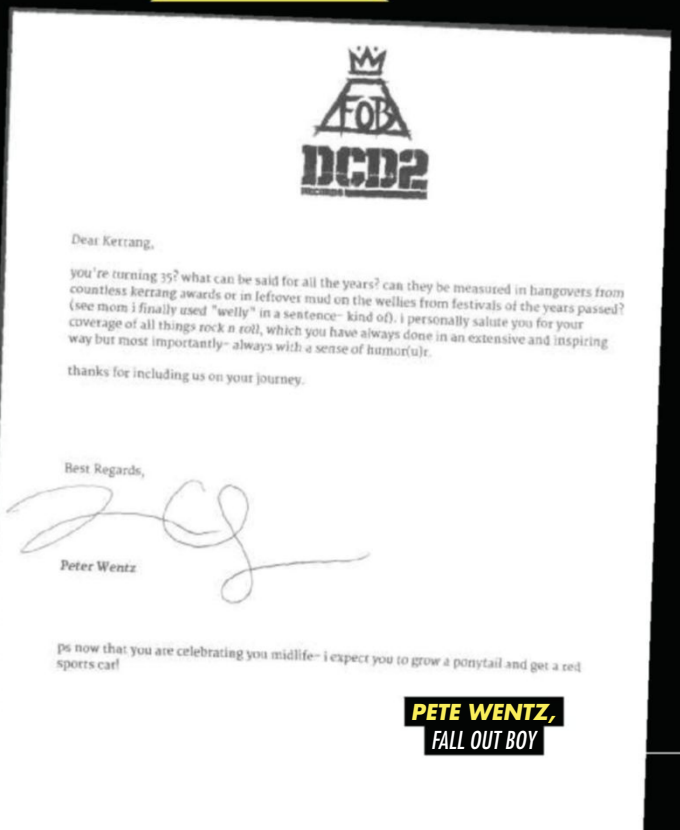
FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH

"YOU LED THE CHARGE WHEN YOU WERE AN ARMY OF ONE. CONGRATS ON 35 YEARS OF BEING LOUD AND PROUD!"

PAUL STANLEY, KISS



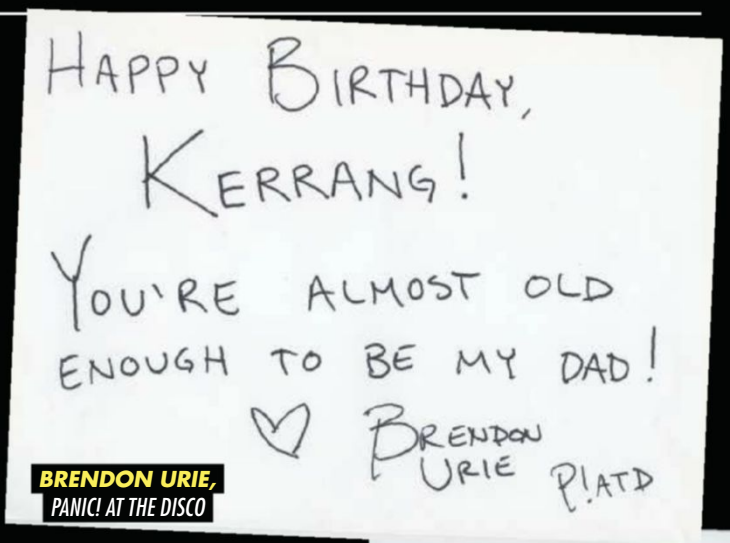
DEFTONES



PETE WENTZ, FALL OUT BOY

MOTIONLESS IN WHITE

PIERCE THE VEIL



BRENDON URIE, PANIC! AT THE DISCO

"A massive congratulations to you on your 35th birthday. You've been great supporters of our band for over a decade now, and we are always humbled by you doing so."

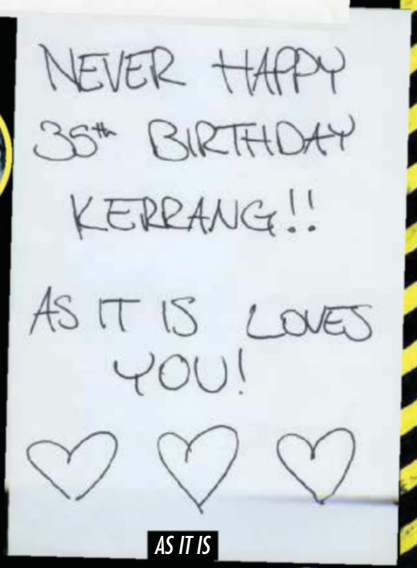
YOU ME AT SIX

AGAINST THE CURRENT

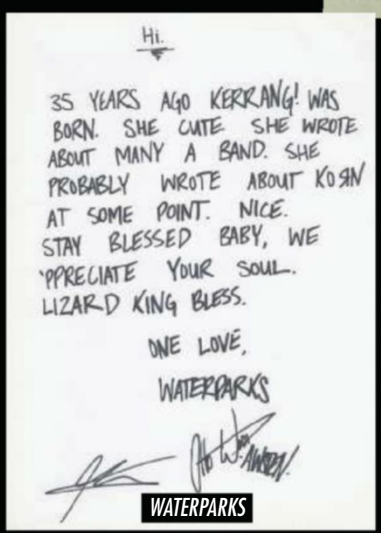
ASKING ALEXANDRIA

"Happy 35th birthday to Kerrang!. I remember being a reader from back in the day, and depending on who you guys featured, we either kept it or wiped our asses with it! I remember opening up that mag with Lars [Ulrich] and going, 'Oh, fuck, look at that guy's striped pants!' Half the bands we loved and half we hated, but it always had an impact on us."

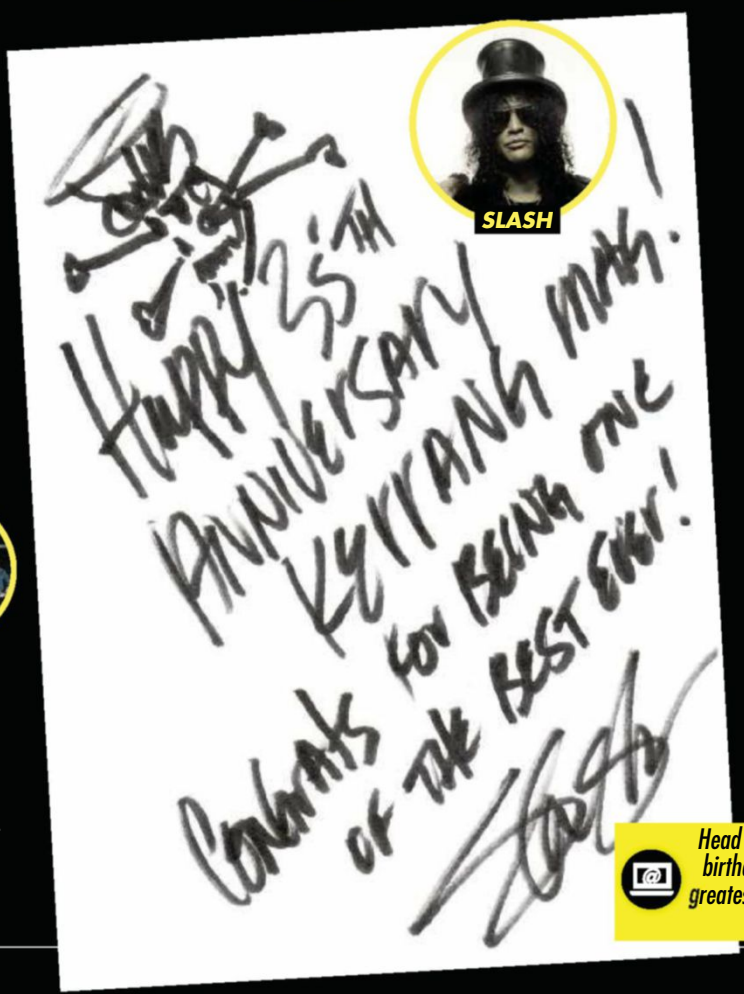
DAVE MUSTAINE, MEGADETH



AS IT IS



WATERPARKS



SLASH

"Congratulations to Kerrang! – 35-year-old rock and metal fanatics. Ageing in metal can be tricky – most go with either the jet-black hair dye, or the full-head shave. I wish you at least another 25 – 30 years of heavy, and may you all age more gracefully than many of us – hard-living takes its toll eventually!"

MIKE BORDIN, FAITH NO MORE

"Thank you to the entire staff for welcoming my band and myself with open arms. And thank you to all of the readers that come out and see the shows. I've met a lot of you guys and it feels like this big amazing family. It doesn't feel like it's just a publication. We talk a lot to you guys and it just feels like this amazing group full of the awesome camaraderie that we have. Thanks for keeping rock alive!"

LZZY HALE, HALESTORM

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KERRANG! – YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO BE MY SON! WHO'S YOUR DADDY?"

BILLY GOULD, FAITH NO MORE

*Head to **Kerrang.com** for even more birthday messages. Plus, read the 35 greatest albums of Kerrang!'s lifetime in next week's issue!*

THE FEED
THIS WEEK IN ROCK

MAKE AMERICA RAGE AGAIN!

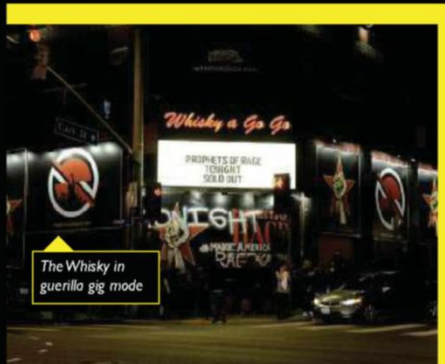
K! GETS DOWN THE FRONT FOR RAP-ROCK SUPERGROUP **PROPHETS OF RAGE**'S EXPLOSIVE, TRUMP-BAITING LIVE DEBUT IN LA…

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE **ADDITIONAL REPORTING:** EVE BARLOW **PHOTOS:** GETTY

"WHAT BETTER place than here, what better place than now?" So boomed Public Enemy legend Chuck D onstage at the cavernous Whisky a Go Go, quoting the lyrics to Rage Against The Machine classic Guerilla Radio to explain the genesis of Prophets Of Rage, the supergroup who made their provocative live debut in Los Angeles on Tuesday, May 31.

The fact that the collective is made up of members of three of the most influential bands of all time – namely Rage Against The Machine guitarist Tom Morello, bassist Tim Commerford and drummer Brad Wilk, Public Enemy's Chuck D and DJ Lord, and Cypress Hill's B-Real – resulted in this being one of the most eagerly-anticipated shows of the year, with the sold-out crowd of 500 lucky fans being treated to a **performance that will go down in rock folklore.**

In true guerilla style, tickets for the show – which was announced at 10am on the day – were only available on the door of the Sunset Strip venue for what Tom Morello described as the "people's price" of $20, with all proceeds going to PATH (People Assisting The Homeless). That morning, a banner appeared suggesting: "We can no longer stand on the sidelines of history. Dangerous times demand dangerous songs. It's time to take the power back. It's time to RAGE again."



The Whisky in guerilla gig mode

And that's exactly what the band did; detonating proceedings with Prophets Of Rage, the Public Enemy track that has provided the group with their name. From there, the 90-minute set encompassed feverishly-devoured classics from their constituent musical parts, including RATM's Testify and Know Your Enemy, Public Enemy's Miuzi Weighs A Ton and Shut 'Em Down, and Cypress Hill's (Rock) Superstar.

In addition, a version of Beastie Boys' No Sleep Till Brooklyn not only saw Tom play his guitar's fretboard with his teeth to frenzied screams,

Prophets of Rage (from left): Tim Commerford, Chuck D, Brad Wilk, B-Real and Tom Morello

but the lyrics slyly tweaked to 'No Sleep Till Cleveland' – a reference to the location of July's Republican National Convention, where, rumours now suggest, the band will make some sort of gate-crashing live appearance.

That wasn't the only bit of anti-Donald Trump sentiment on the night, either, with the provocative guitarist taking to the stage sporting a baseball cap emblazoned with the words 'Make America Rage Again', and the evening's only new track, The Party's Over – a cocktail of classic RATM riffs and B-Real's high-pitched rhymes – sarcastically dedicated to the infamous Republican Presidential candidate.

Although Tom Morello has been quick to clarify this *isn't* a supergroup, recently describing them to Rolling Stone as "an elite task force of revolutionary musicians determined to confront this mountain of election year bullshit", their recent emergence has been the subject of frenzied speculation. So far, this has largely focused on the fact that Rage Against The Machine frontman Zack de la Rocha has chosen not to take part. Of Zack's absence, Chuck D later suggested before final track Bulls On Parade that: "We are the Prophets Of Rage, but there's a space for Zack de la Rocha to join."

A second LA gig – at the Palladium in Hollywood on Friday, June 3 – subsequently put paid to rumours that the Whisky show would be the band's one and only live appearance. The Rage is just starting…

For more Prophets Of Rage news, head to ***Kerrang.com***

Chuck D and B-Real: spit it out!

THE FEED
THIS WEEK IN ROCK

Of Mice & Men in 2016: getting ready to go another round

IN THE STUDIO: OF MICE & MEN

AFTER A YEAR THAT LEFT THE CALIFORNIA METALCORE MOB'S FUTURE IN DOUBT, FRONTMAN **AUSTIN CARLILE** AND BASSIST/VOCALIST **AARON PAULEY** CONFIRM THEY'RE STRONGER THAN EVER ON THEIR "FLAMMABLE" FOURTH ALBUM…

HI, GENTLEMEN! HOW HAVE YOUR RECENT UK SHOWS BEEN?

AARON PAULEY (*VOCALS/BASS*): "It's crazy – with the way that the last year ended and the way that we've kind of prepared to take this year on, I think that was a reminder that nothing's really guaranteed. The fact that we're back out and doing this again stronger than we were is just a reminder to enjoy it while we're out here. It's been a lot of fun."

AUSTIN CARLILE (*VOCALS*): "Once that intro starts, the adrenaline takes over and reason takes a backseat. It's been a cathartic feeling getting up there – especially with some of the songs that are talking about things I'm dealing with at the moment. You can feel like you've been out of place after spending nine months being at home and then in the studio, and then you're hearing all those people singing your songs back. That makes it all worth it."

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR TIME IN THE STUDIO… WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM ALBUM FOUR?

AARON: "We don't try to chase a sound so much as we try to chase good songs. So, if an idea pops up and it's a little bit left-field or we go, 'That's kind of weird,' we chase after that. So, people should expect the unexpected!"

Austin and Aaron take their Skype chats very seriously

AUSTIN, GIVEN THE DIFFICULT YEAR YOU'VE HAD, WERE YOU RELUCTANT TO LET IT INFORM THE RECORD?

AUSTIN: "Honestly, we didn't really think about that. The year I went through is – I don't want to say normal; I had a few more things done to my body than I'm used to – but from since I was a little kid, I was always getting hurt and having surgeries. This year was the first time in my life when my body couldn't keep up with my spirit. As soon as that started happening, it was a big eye-opener. I think the music came naturally from that."

THIS ALL SOUNDS VERY SERIOUS; WAS THAT THE OVERALL VIBE WHEN YOU WERE RECORDING?

AARON: "It was just like taking all of the most

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE PHOTOS: CASEY MCPERRY

THEY SAID WHAT?

"I'VE NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO STAND UP FOR MYSELF AND FOR OTHERS"
ASH COSTELLO, NEW YEARS DAY

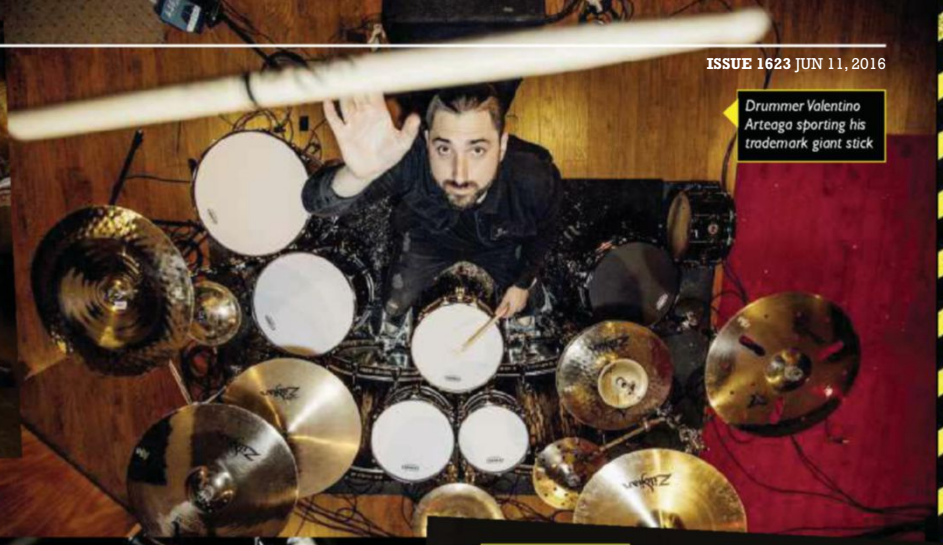
PAPA FRIDGE…

Papa Roach have launched a PledgeMusic campaign for their next album. If you preorder the follow-up to last year's F.E.A.R. you can access a number of truly one-of-a-kind items and experiences – including everything from a signed fridge (*pictured*) to the prop baby from the cover of 2002's Lovehatetragedy and, for a mere $600,000, their entire downtown Sacramento studio (and its contents).

TEMPLES FESTIVAL CANCELLED

Bristol's independent metal festival **Temples**, which was due to be headlined by **Mayhem**, **Melvins** and **Carcass**, was unfortunately cancelled four days before it was scheduled to take place, after funding from its backers was pulled. Ticket-holders can receive a refund at the point of purchase.

Guitarist Phil Manansala puts the metal to the pedal



Drummer Valentino Arteaga sporting his trademark giant stick

"Hang on, guys, I can't do a mic-drop with this one!"

Aaron decided to bring his first games console to the studio

flammable chemicals, putting them all in a bucket and just holding a match over it. Some days you put the match a little closer, and some days you think, 'That's not smart,' and lift the match up higher; but at any moment it felt like it was going to drop and everything was just going to explode."

AUSTIN: "There were many opportunities for the worst things to happen, but, at the end of the day, I know what grounded me was that we were there to make a record. We had to push the record back – we were supposed to do it a month or two beforehand – but I just wasn't ready; even when we got there I wasn't ready, and so it was a growing process for everybody."

IN TERMS OF THE REST OF THE BAND'S DISCOGRAPHY, WHERE DOES THIS NEW ALBUM FIT IN?

AARON: "As far as this one goes, it's just its own entity. That, to me, is what's most exciting about being in this band – we're all so open to doing new stuff. It keeps us consistently rejuvenated, because we're not just doing the same thing over and over again. I think one of our staple elements is the fact we worry more about the songs than the sound."

AUSTIN: "As long as AP and AC are on it (*the two bump fists*), then it's an Of Mice & Men record! It's whatever emotion that comes out of our hearts and throats that makes it us."

YOU'VE IMMORTALISED YOUR LIVE SHOW WITH THE LIVE AT BRIXTON CD/DVD; WHAT DID SEEING AND HEARING THAT BACK TEACH YOU?

AUSTIN: "We always try to watch our shows back – like a football game or a basketball game, you study to see what you did wrong and what you could do better. Getting to watch Brixton back, I was like, 'There's a lot of work I need to do!'"

WHAT DID YOU FEEL YOU NEEDED TO WORK ON? ARE THESE THINGS YOU'LL PUT INTO ACTION ON YOUR RECENTLY-ANNOUNCED UK TOUR?

AUSTIN: "It [the Brixton show] was at the end of a long time of touring, and I just remember at some points my rib was doing this (*illustrates his rib popping out*). That was probably one of the worst places I've been at in a while, and now we have a CD and DVD that encapsulates that forever. Aaron said something to me in the studio when we were there: when you hit rock bottom and you're on the ground – the only place to go is up!"

AARON: "When we start this cycle and come back to the UK, we'll have these new songs, which means a whole new experience that we get to go through at the same time the fans do. I can't wait!"

"MY BODY COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH MY SPIRIT..."

AUSTIN CARLILE

ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF HITTING THE ROAD IN THE U.S. THIS SUMMER WITH SLIPKNOT AND MARILYN MANSON?

AUSTIN: "I think for a band like Slipknot to go, 'We're gonna take you on tour,' tells their fans to have an open heart and an open mind to us. Why the heck would Slipknot wants us on their tour if they don't see the realness of us?"

AND YOU AREN'T A LITTLE FEARFUL OF MANSON'S REPUTATION FOR PARTYING?

AUSTIN: "Fear?! *No way*! It'll be awesome! Who cares about his reputation? It doesn't have anything to do with who he really is, I'm sure."

For Of Mice & Men tour dates, see the ***Gig Guide***

NEW BANDS FOR BUTSERFEST

Mallory Knox, **Young Guns**, **As It Is** and **Moose Blood** have joined the line-up for this year's **Butserfest**. The UK's biggest alcohol and drug-free festival, celebrating its 10th event, takes place at Peterfield's Queen Elizabeth Country Park on September 10.

MODERN BASEBALL GET TOUGH ON HARASSMENT

In response to feedback from fans, **Modern Baseball** have set up a free help hotline to protect gig-goers. Fans attending shows on the Philadelphia rockers' current U.S. tour with **Joyce Manor** and **Thin Lips** can text the band's camp if they feel unsafe.

THEY SAID WHAT?

"I HAVE THE DAY OFF TO DRINK TEA AND WATCH WWE NETWORK IN MY UNDERWEAR"

WILL GOULD, CREEPER

K!ONFIDENTIAL

ROCK GOSSIP AND GIBBERISH

SNAP TO THRILL

AS FANS MOURN THE LOSS OF ROU REYNOLDS' ALTER-EGO, ETHEL, HERE'S SOME OF OUR FAVE ROCKSTAR SNAPCHATTERS…

WE'LL BE HONEST: it's not everyday that someone named Ethel makes it to the pages of K!. For the uninitiated, Ethel (pictured right) was the huskily-voiced, middle-aged, female alter-ego of Enter Shikari frontman Rou Reynolds, who'd provide unique dispatches about the band's travels and adventures. We say 'was' because, unfortunately, said filter has now been removed from Snapchat, meaning Ethel has disappeared from our phone screens – possibly forever. And while her not-inconsiderable fanbase continue to decry her absence, it got us thinking about the rockstars that are utilising the image-messaging app in ways that bring their art (and, naturally, some tomfoolery) into a whole new dimension…

BRENDON URIE @PATDBRENDON

Expect the Panic! live experience squeezed into a small screen: complete with vocal acrobatics and gurning.

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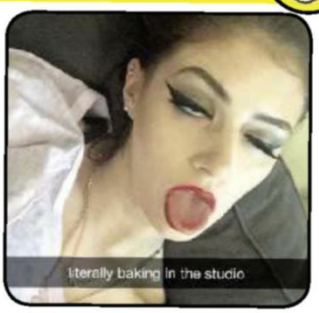
USE OF FILTERS: KKKK
FUN FACTOR: KKKKK

CHRISSY COSTANZA @CHRISSYATC



Given the role social media has played in Against The Current's emergence, it's unsurprising that Chrissy loves to snap.

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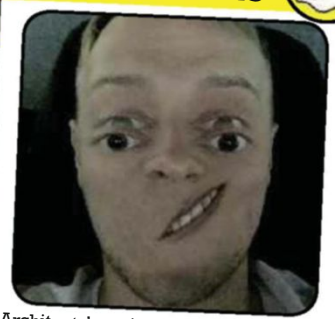
USE OF FILTERS: KKK
FUN FACTOR: KKKK

JARED LETO @JAREDLETO

Dispatches from Hollywood (including that excitement-inducing Joker pic) and the world of rock – what's not to like?!

FACE-PULLING: KKK
USE OF FILTERS: KKKK
FUN FACTOR: KKK

SAM CARTER @SAMARCHITECTS



Architects' music and Sam's work with Sea Shepherd belies a man with a healthy capacity for being very daft.

FACE-PULLING: KKKK
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THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

BIFFY CLYRO ARE MAKING IT TOUGH FOR **MOOSE BLOOD**, **DEFTONES** AND **ANDY BLACK**! COME BACK NEXT WEEK AS THE K! ROCK CHART SAGA CONTINUES…

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	5	1	BIFFY CLYRO	Wolves Of Winter	14TH FLOOR
2	5	2	MOOSE BLOOD	Honey	HOPELESS
3	6	3	DEFTONES	Prayers/Triangles	REPRISE
4	8	1	ANDY BLACK	We Don't Have To Dance	ISLAND
5	2	5	WATERPARKS	Crave	EASY LIFE/RED ESSENTIAL
6	9	3	SET IT OFF	Uncontainable	EQUAL VISION
7	2	7	DEAD!	You're So Cheap	INFECTIOUS MUSIC
8	7	2	A DAY TO REMEMBER	Paranoia	ADTR RECORDS
9	4	8	REIGNING DAYS	Empire	ECCO RECORDINGS
10	2	9	THE HUNNA	You & Me (Hunna Tree)	HIGH TIME
11	2	11	PANIC! AT THE DISCO	Don't Threaten Me With A Good Time	FUELED BY RAMEN
12	1	12	WITH CONFIDENCE	Keeper	HOPELESS
13	2	13	TRASH BOAT	Strangers (Feat. Dan Campbell)	HOPELESS
14	13	7	BLACK PEAKS	Glass Built Castles	SONY
15	6	13	STRANGE BONES	God Save The Teen	STRANGE BONES
16	3	10	ISSUES	Coma	RISE
17	10	3	AGAINST THE CURRENT	Running With The Wild Things	FUELED BY RAMEN
18	1	18	ARCHITECTS	Gone With The Wind	EPITAPH
19	2	19	BEARTOOTH	Aggressive	RED BULL
20	10	12	GHOST TOWN	Mean Kids	FUELED BY RAMEN

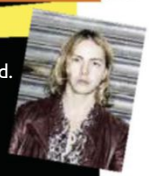
MARK OSBORNE, MOOSE BLOOD

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RELEASE HONEY AS THE FIRST SINGLE FROM YOUR NEW ALBUM, BLUSH?
"We felt it had the right impact to stand out as the first single. It isn't a million miles away from stuff we've done before, and it was a great transition between records."

IS IT A GOOD INDICATION OF WHAT WE CAN EXPECT FROM THE RECORD?
"I hope so. We feel it's a good way to introduce people to the new material. It just kind of stood out to us. So, we all felt the same way about it and wanted to put it out first. I guess this is a more poppy element of the record."

YOU WROTE THE SONG – WHAT INSPIRED THE LYRICAL CONTENT?
"The lyrics were inspired by my girlfriend at the time messing me around while being on tour. Girls are the best and worst things in our lives, but at least they give us something to write about."

RYAN POTTER, THE HUNNA



YOU & ME (HUNNA TREE) IS IN THE K! ROCK CHART, HOW DOES THAT FEEL?
"We've always been Kerrang! fans and follow the chart. To now be in there is an honour."

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
"The song is about the band before we had anything released. It's also about turning things around that people said we couldn't do and it was made as a calling to our fans – we are like a big family."

CAN YOU TELL US WHAT A HUNNA TREE IS?
"It is a majestic tree where the squad used to meet up and chill."

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

KERRANG! TV
KERRANG! RADIO

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on K! Radio every Saturday at 10am with Loz Guest, and also on K! TV Thursdays at 4pm. Tune in and listen up!

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ISSUE 1623 JUN 11, 2016

FRESH BLOOD
ROCK'S

(L – R): Joe Napper (drums), Ben Chanter (guitar), Will Alford (vocals), Nate Boult (guitar), Ollie Chanter (bass)

WITTERQUICK

THE UK ROCKERS WITH BIG TUNES AND EVEN BIGGER AMBITIONS…

WHO'S THIS COOL-LOOKING BUNCH OF DUDES GIVING US THE BLUE STEEL, THEN?

Say hello to WITTERQUICK – Exeter's smoothest rock band. They might look pretty nonchalant here, but, in actual fact, they're in the middle of a roller-coaster year, having spent the past 12 months hitting the road all around the UK, getting signed to LAB Records and preparing for the release of their debut EP, Beneath The Spinning Lights – which is out on June 17. "We went from being five guys making music, to touring the UK in a bus with Nothing But Thieves, to getting signed by LAB. It's blown our lives to pieces already, and we can't wait to see what happens!" gushes frontman Will Alford.

BADASS! THE BRITISH ROCK SCENE IS STRONGER THAN EVER RIGHT NOW – WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS LOT?

"The only way to stand out in this industry is to be honest and be who you are," admits backing vocalist/bassist Ollie Chanter. "We would rather kill this now than try to be like anyone else. Once you start copying other people, you're over…" Thankfully WITTERQUICK's rousing brand of pop-rock rivals any of their more experienced UK counterparts, and the fivesome's five-track debut is crammed with the sort of dreamy melodic anthems you'd expect from a band much further into their career. "Whatever happens with WITTERQUICK, we'll know we did it our way and we were ourselves – there's no better outcome than that," agrees Will.

> ***"WE'D RATHER KILL THIS THAN TRY TO BE LIKE ANYONE ELSE"***

NICE. SOUNDS LIKE IT'S ALL BEEN SMOOTH SAILING SO FAR, THEN?

Well, not quite… "Will had to go to hospital after a fan jumped on him after a show in Scotland – that was pretty intense! His face got all bashed-up…" Ollie groans. Of course, there's been some wild moments in the good sense, too: "I was asked to write lyrics on a fan who had them tattooed on her ribs – the fans definitely make this worth doing!" continues Ollie. "Having fans come over from Europe to see us play a show is amazing – giving us gifts, waiting around to see us after… the dedication is insane!"

AW. CAN WE LOITER AROUND ANY VENUES TO SEE WITTERQUICK FOR OURSELVES ANY TIME SOON?

Well, if you hit Camden Rocks, then you would have seen WITTERQUICK making a name for themselves alongside fellow Brit heroes like Young Guns, Creeper and HECK. If you missed that, though, you can catch the band's two EP launch shows in London and Exeter this month. And beyond that? The sky's the limit. "Big stages are what we're made for, and where we feel most at home – there's a different energy," grins Will. Now it's just a case of finding a venue to contain 'em.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FOR FANS OF: Nothing But Thieves, Young Guns, Lonely The Brave.
HEAR: Debut EP Beneath The Spinning Lights, out on June 17.
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/witterquickband
CHECK OUT: The awesome live video for Fade Out.
DON'T MISS: WITTERQUICK and more brilliant new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio.

WORDS: EMILY CARTER PHOTO: ANDY FORD

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6 EXETER, CAVERN
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8 GLASGOW, O2 ABC2
9 LIVERPOOL, ARTS CLUB
10 BIRMINGHAM, O2 ACADEMY3
11 OXFORD, O2 ACADEMY2
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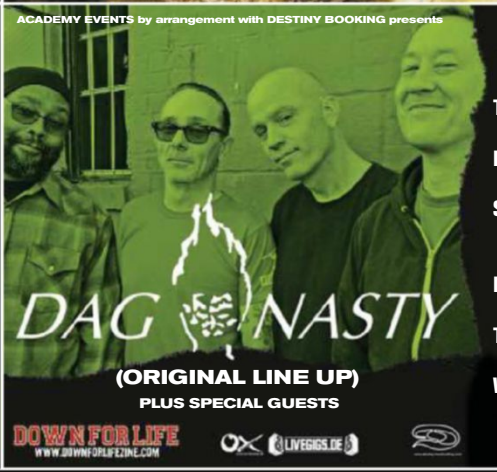

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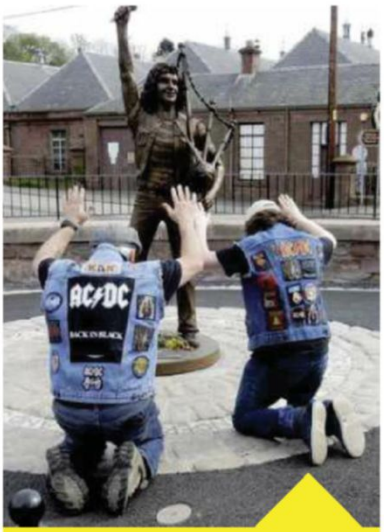
IT'S YOUR PAGE, YOUR LIFE!

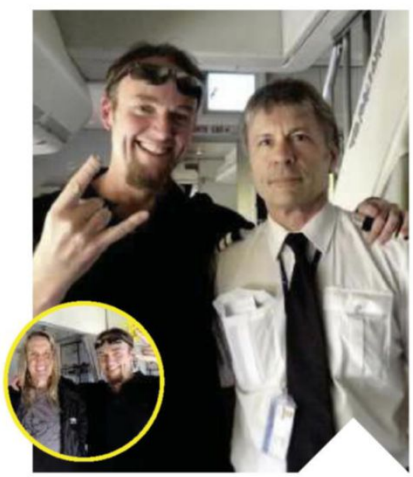
NEW YEARS HEY!

"Still can't believe I met New Years Day at Slam Dunk on Sunday!" says @RoyalsJasmine. Better believe it, Jasmine. It's here, printed on this very page! Unless this is all a dream. Quick, pinch us!



FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ROCKED (WE SALUTE YOU)

"Me and my dad praising the holy one!" says @FothergillBen. This is a FANTASTIC photo with AC/DC's Bon Scott. We just hope you checked the floor for dog poo and chewing gum before you knelt down.



EMPERORS OF THE CLOUDS

Here's @AdamSmi08812146, the luckiest flyer ever, with Captain Bruce Dickinson and, we presume, Air Steward Nicko McPlane.

WINNER!

MEETING BENJAMIN

"Not over finally meeting my favourite band Breaking Benjamin. Worth the seven-year wait!" says @JadeGreenbrooke. Well, Jade, for your patience, not only have you got this wicked photo, but you've also won a signed Breaking Benjamin guitar. Just don't name it Benjamin and, um, break it.

THE SHADOW TIDE

"Met Andy Black before his concert in Brighton!" says @Ellie_BVBarmy. Did you give him a stick of rock and show him the pier, Ellie? YOU CAN'T GO TO BRIGHTON AND NOT GO ON THE PIER. And fish'n'chips. Mmmm…

WHEREVER I MAY ROAM

Here's ROAM's Alex Costello with the lucky @amyjillpowell. In this picture, you can see Alex pioneering the world's first postcard T-shirt. Look at that lovely skyline and ocean on the front there. We just hope the ink was dry before he wore it…

NEXT WEEK

WIN!

A LIFETIME TICKET TO 2000TREES

Bumped into Pierce The Veil at a theme park recently? Helped blink-182 not be bored to death? If you've got proof, we want to see – share your pics with us, using **#Kommunity**. The best will win a golden ticket for 2000trees. That means FREE ENTRY for LIFE! You'll also receive a limited-edition screen print. For this year's awesome line-up, check out the Gig Guide.

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SCREAM FOR ME, DONINGTON!

BALLS TO KERRISTMAS – JUNE IS TRULY THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR, WITH **DOWNLOAD 2016** THE FESTIVAL JEWEL IN ITS CROWN. BUT BEFORE YOU PACK YOUR BAGS AND POINT YOUR COMPASS TO **DONINGTON PARK**, YOU'LL BE NEEDING KERRANG!'S INDISPENSABLE GUIDE TO ROCK'S BIGGEST WEEKEND, PACKED WITH 19 NEW INTERVIEWS, STAGE TIMES, SIGNING TENT INFO, THE NEW BANDS NOT TO MISS AND MORE! SO, PUT DOWN THOSE TENT PEGS, AND DIVE ON IN…

IRON MAIDEN PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES

Steve Harris liked to be ready for the stage and the football terrace, all at once

LOAD! IRON MAIDEN

DAY: SUNDAY **STAGE:** THE LEMMY STAGE
TIME: 8:50PM – 10:50PM

WITH THE BOOK OF SOULS WORLD TOUR SET TO STORM DONINGTON, NICK RUSKELL HEADS TO GERMANY TO GET A GLIMPSE OF WHAT TO EXPECT...

You have never seen Iron Maiden this good. Ever. We are a mere 30 seconds into the Berlin date of The Book Of Souls World Tour, but this is certain. Bruce Dickinson emerges on a high point of the stage, alone, wearing a cowl, singing the strange opening bars of If Eternity Should Fail from behind an enormous, smoking cauldron.

'Here is the soul of a man…'

This venue, this enormous amphitheatre in the depths of a forest behind the German capital's massive Olympic Park, shakes as Bruce pounds his fist against the side of the well-sized vessel before him. Beyond that are 20,000 people seated in almost vertical rows. From the stage, it looks as though the bleachers run from floor to sky. Literally everywhere you look, there are people, rising into the sky.

'Here in this place for the taking…'

Backstage, dozens of people beaver away doing dozens of things you wouldn't notice unless you were involved in the many cogs of this machine, or one of those otherwise silent cogs broke down.

Out front, things are simply… tense. Dramatic. Bruce – the man who flew his band and crew here on his own plane, Ed Force One, who not even two hours earlier was a man of suddenly-widening eyes as he realised his band were on relatively early tonight – pounds his fist against the rim of the cauldron, as an almighty drum kicks in.

'Time to speak with the shaman again…'

BAM BAM.

Argh, tension…

'So here is the soooouuuul of a maaaaaan'.

And then the dam bursts. As Bruce strikes the cauldron a final time, flames erupt on either side of him. On the stage below him, Steve Harris leads the rest of Iron Maiden – guitarists Adrian Smith, Dave Murray and Janick Gers, and drummer Nick McBrain – onto the stage for that first, KO-ing note when the song kicks in, and Berlin erupts. Side-stage, members of Ghost – who themselves vacated the stage less than an hour earlier – can be seen losing their shit. There is not a fist that isn't in the air, not a voice not singing the song's chorus.

You have never seen Iron Maiden this good. And this is a song the UK has never seen live before. In fact, there's five more, just as fresh, and just as powerful. Believe us when we say, Download is going to be simply one of the best shows you have ever seen, from one of the most consistently incredible bands there has ever been.

"IT'S IMPORTANT WE KEEP REINVENTING OURSELVES"

STEVE HARRIS

Stepping into the world of Iron Maiden on a day like the one on which we join them at Berlin's Waldbühne is like entering a very well-organised washing machine. Elements appear to be doing their own thing, flying under their own steam, but every single little detail is under control. Even the weather – threatening a torrential downpour but, as Steve Harris says, "You can't do anything about that. And, anyway, we're British, we're meant to moan about the weather" – seems to be behaving. Which is good, because the venue is in a forest, not far from the city, but with a vibe that makes it feel like you're in another world.

In one tent, a series of laptops and very organised people silently keep the wheels turning. Next to them, Bruce Dickinson is enjoying the biggest bowl of cereal you've ever seen, and delightedly discussing today's unusual parking arrangements for Ed Force One. Scheduling being what it is, Maiden have had to get special permission to park their plane, and thus become technically an exhibit (Number 666, natch), at the Berlin Air Show. His grin suggests he, as an avid aviator, knew about this long before everyone else.

In an adjacent room, Adrian Smith can be heard warming up with some deafening licks. Across the way, the sound of Nicko's drum warm-ups fills the air, when he's not busy asking Kerrang! for a chip. Dave Murray, meanwhile, is quietly smoking. In one of the cabins that make up today's dressing rooms, Steve Harris, having just watched his son's band, The Raven Age, play their opening slot and taken in his surroundings for the day, is impressed by today's layout.

"This venue's really cool," he enthuses. "It's a big old place, but the layout, with the forest and how high it is and everything – it's just a bit different. That's good, a new challenge."

And this is a tour that's been full of new challenges. As well as playing material from last year's flawless The Book Of Souls double-album live for the first time, it's also seen Iron Maiden managing to find bits of the world they've still not played a gig in. China, for one.

"We've been all over the place," he smiles. "China was a new place for us, and we weren't really sure how that was going to be. They wouldn't allow us to do this and that, and I mean, it all worked out well in the end, but it was all a bit odd. They wouldn't let Bruce use the flag on The Trooper. We said, 'Well, can we use the Chinese flag?' and they wouldn't let us use that, either. And then they said on the set list, they said, 'You've got to change Powerslave to something else but you can still play the song.' How weird is that?"

A bit, but this is just a sign of the new ground Maiden continue to break on this current run of touring. As well as China, the band visited San Salvador and South Africa ("It was the middle of fuckin' winter there, though!" chuckles Nicko. "I was not happy in that respect!").

"San Salvador was an eye-opener," says Adrian Smith. "South America is pretty poor, pretty impoverished. And in South America you can't go outside the hotel. There's kids camped out there, there's probably 50 or 100 kids outside the hotel in San Salvador, but when I looked half an hour later they'd gone and there were several armed police out there. They just don't like kids gathering. So, that was a bit different. They shooed all the kids away. But we got a nice letter from some diplomat or official down there saying thanks for playing and that the people really enjoyed it."

But wherever Maiden have been this year in the lead up to Download, on June 12, what everyone in every other corner of the globe has come away from shows –

THOSE TIMES OF ANCIENT MARINERS

1988

A triumph and a tragedy for Donington. It was Maiden's first time headlining the Monsters Of Rock Festival, as well as Guns N' Roses' first big UK gig. The day would be marred by the death of two fans during Guns' set, but from a performance standpoint, Iron Maiden were flawless.

1992

Returning as seasoned pros during the Fear Of The Dark Tour, in 1992 Maiden delivered their finest hour to date. Happily, they captured in on the monstrous Live At Donington live album. Bruce Dickinson would leave shortly afterwards, but he did so on a hell of a high.

2003

Oh, and then Bruce came back, as did guitarist Adrian Smith. This was rock's first time at Donington Park since 1996, and what better way to celebrate than with Maiden romping through The Wicker Man, The Clansman and Die With Your Boots On?

in Chile, at Madison Square Garden, in Shanghai, in Cape Town – is how Maiden, rather than resting on some sort of laurel and turning in another easy-to-do Greatest Hits set, are loading almost half their set with 10-minute-plus bangers from The Book Of Souls. For some bands, that's a hell of a risk. For Steve and Maiden, that's just what you do…

"We're never scared to play loads of new songs," he reasons. "Some people say they're going to find it hard-going. You're not going to get the reactions you get to the old stuff – of course you're not. But then when you first play stuff and then you play it a couple more tours down the line, maybe those songs will be part of the set that people react to the same as the other old stuff. At the end of the day, it is what it is, and we go out and do it. We're not scared to do it and we enjoy doing it. I think it's important that we keep things fresh and keep doing new albums and keep reinventing ourselves in one way or another."

Adrian feels the same. And, in fact, it's made parts of the album come to life for him.

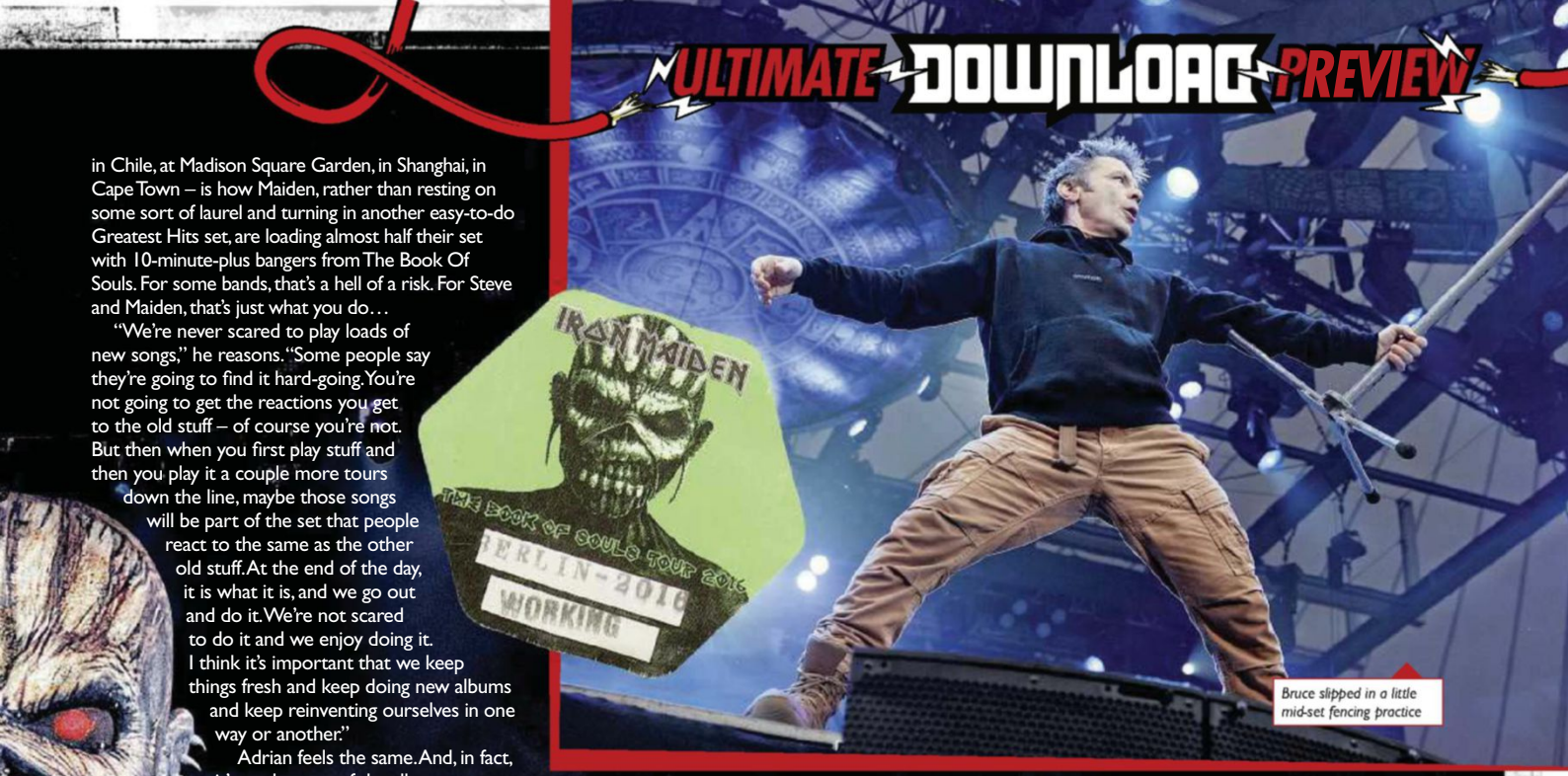
"I didn't think we'd be playing Tears Of A Clown," he admits. "We nearly didn't record it – it was an afterthought, really, but it's turned into a song we play live, which is great. It's different from what we normally do and, again, it keeps it all interesting – a bit of new blood, like you say, we're doing The Red And The Black, which is 13 minutes long. But people seem to really like it and they stay with it."

With new songs comes new stage sets – the cauldron, a giant Mayan Eddie, a fucking *temple* onstage. Look easy? That's because it's all going smoothly. But Steve remembers times in the past when it hasn't been quite so simple.

"I distinctly remember when we had the Somewhere In Time tour and we had the inflatable hands," he laughs. "Bruce used to stand in the hand on this side and I used to stand on this side. And it used to come up. We'd be standing in the palms of the hand and basically the side I was on, it had inflatable fingers and thumb and it got a hole in it, so it didn't come up. I was standing up there trying to give it the big 'un, and it was like there was this hand sagged right down and I'm thinking, 'Oh, God…' We were laughing about it – we did laugh about it. And then the crew at the next gig, they did it so that when it came up they'd tied it in such a way that it came up and gave the big middle-finger. It was just a priceless moment, it was hilarious. These things do happen sometimes but you've just got to laugh. What else can you do?"

What indeed? Keep going. Which is what makes Maiden so cool. Where many bands of Maiden's vintage – and 16 albums under your belt is no mean feat – would happily play hits, Steve prefers to keep on trucking like always, making new music and playing it live.

"I think that more bands should do it," reckons Steve. "More bands should have the bottle to do it, if you like. Because it's easier to go out and play one new song and the rest is all stuff [the crowd] know, because you know you're gonna get a guaranteed reaction. Whereas you're not gonna get a guaranteed reaction with the new stuff, necessarily,



Bruce slipped in a little mid-set fencing practice

"He's beeeehiiind yooooou!"

MAIDEN DONINGTON SETS RELIVED…

2007

Not playing the whole of A Matter Of Life And Death as they had done on the previous tour, Maiden nonetheless treated us to a lot of it. Also notable for Bruce Dickinson taking a spectacular tumble off a stage monitor which, fortunately, was caught on video so we can watch it over and over on YouTube.

2013

You want a classic set? Here's one that wouldn't have disgraced the World Slavery Tour in the '80s. Moonchild, Phantom Of The Opera and The Clairvoyant all made an appearance as, once again, Maiden proved themselves the kings of Donington Park.

so it's tougher. I like it. I like challenges."

Watching Iron Maiden roll through If Eternity Should Fail, Tears Of A Clown, Speed Of Light and the other cuts from The Book Of Souls tonight, it doesn't seem so much of a challenge as a total gimme. Something more of a challenge in Maiden's recent history, however, has been Bruce Dickinson's health. During the recording of the album, he was diagnosed with cancer, the result of a tumour "the size of a golf ball" on his tongue. Mercifully, treatment was successful, and Bruce was given the all-clear almost a year ago to the day of tonight's show. It's only given The World's Most Unstoppable Man an even bigger thirst for life.

"He's been fantastic on this tour," says Steve. "He's been healthy and fit and everything like that. So far, so good. He seems fine and he seems up for doing whatever, which is great. He seems very full of life. I suppose after something like that happens to you, you're gonna take life by the horns."

Onstage tonight, in a black shirt, as a shaman staring into a cauldron, as a condemned man with a noose around his neck during the dead-man's lament of Hallowed Be Thy Name, Bruce is a whirlwind of energy. More than usual. Another thing that makes Maiden 2016 so exciting: they're a band capable of shooting down whatever shit you've got going on by simply playing a show. Seriously, when you see them at Download, you will forget any trouble and strife, and, for two glorious hours, the world will be nothing but an amazingly happy place.

"I think some of that's rubbed off on all of us," reckons Dave. "Just seeing that happen to someone you know, and seeing how Bruce is now that he's beaten it, it's hard not to get inspired by all of that, really. He's got even more energy than he had before!"

At Download, Bruce will be using some of that energy to land Ed Force One at East Midlands Airport, literally next door to the festival site. As Maiden's fourth Download performance and seventh overall at Castle Donington – all of them headlining, thank you very much – they've earned a good parking spot for their plane. To many, Iron Maiden and Donington Park belong together. There's just something about the two that fit so perfectly. Not that Steve's going to be camping any time soon.

"My kids like going and getting muddy for the weekend. It's not my cup of tea, but my idea of camping out is a bloody RV. It's just not me, but they love it!" he grins. "And I remember going in 1973 to Reading just to see Genesis and I loved the vibe of it. Getting muddy for a weekend, I'm not so sure about that. I'm a bit of a wimp when it comes to things like that. I like my creature comforts."

Like, for example, a plane.

"I remember the first time we headlined Donington in '88, that was pretty nerve-wracking because it was the first time, so you're a bit edgy anyway," he recalls. "There were so many people and we heard all these different rumours about how many people were there. So, the occasion, it didn't overwhelm us, but we played a bit fast for the first few songs because we were so nervy. And then things settled down. I actually

INSIDE MAIDEN HEAVEN VOL. 2!

SO, WHO'S ON YOUR EXCLUSIVE KERRANG! COVER CD...

1 STONE SOUR – Running Free
Written by Steve Harris & Paul Di Anno
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P 2015 Roadrunner Records
Licensed courtesy of Roadrunner Records
www.stonesour.com

2 REIGNING DAYS – Speed Of Light
Written by Bruce Dickinson & Adrian Smith
Published by Universal Music Publishing MGB Limited
P&C 2016 Ecco Recordings
Licenced courtesy of Ecco Recordings
www.reigningdays.co.uk

3 ESCAPE THE FATE – Hallowed Be Thy Name
Written by Steve Harris
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P&C: 2016 Better Noise Records
Courtesy of Better Noise Records
www.escapethefate.com

4 LONELY THE BRAVE – Fear Of The Dark
Written by Steve Harris
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P & C 2016 Hassle Records under exclusive license to Kobalt Label Services Ltd.
Licensed courtesy of Hassle Records
www.lonelythebrave.com

5 TRIVIUM – For The Greater Good Of God
Written by Steve Harris
Published by Universal Music Publishing MGB Limited
P&C: 2016 Roadrunner Records
Licensed courtesy of Roadrunner Records
www.trivium.org

6 STEVEN BATTELLE – The Red And The Black
Written by Steve Harris
Published by Universal Music Publishing MGB Limited
P&C: Steven Battelle
Licensed by Steven Battelle
www.stevenbattelle.co.uk

7 CREEPER – The Evil That Men Do
Written by Bruce Dickinson, Steve Harris & Adrian Smith
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P 2016 Roadrunner Records UK, a division of Warner Bros Records UK, a Warner Music Group company
Licensed courtesy of Roadrunner Records
www.creepercult.com

8 LOWER THAN ATLANTIS – The Number Of The Beast
Written by Steve Harris
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P & C: Easy Life Records / Sony Music Entertainment Limited
Publishing courtesy of copyright control
Licensed courtesy of Easy Life Records/Sony Music Ltd
www.lowerthanatlantis.co

9 ANAAL NATHRAKH – Powerslave
Written by Bruce Dickinson
Published by Imagem London Ltd P&C: Metal Blade Records
Performed by Anaal Nathrakh
www.anaal-nathrakh.com

10 CRYVENOM – Aces High
Written by Steve Harris
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P&C Cry Venom; Jackyvincentmusic ASCAP; NikolayDemidov BMI; Coltonwademajors ASCAP
Licensed courtesy of Cry Venom LLC
www.cryvenom.com

11 FOZZY – Sun And Steel
Written by Bruce Dickinson & Adrian Smith
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P 2016 Another Century Records, a division of Century Media Records
Licensed courtesy of Another Century Records
www.fozzyrock.com

12 MUNCIE GIRLS – The Wicker Man
Written by Adrian Smith, Bruce Dickinson and Steve Harris
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P&C: Muncie Girls
Licensed courtesy of Muncie Girls
www.munciegirls.co.uk

13 HECK – The Trooper
Written by Steve Harris
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P & C: 2016 NPAG Industries Limited
Licensed courtesy of NPAG Industries Limited
www.abandcalledHECK.com

14 UNCLE ACID & THE DEADBEATS – Remember Tomorrow
Written by Steve Harris & Paul Michael Andrews
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P & C: Rise Above Records 2016
Licensed courtesy of Rise Above Records
www.acidcoven.com

15 ANATHEMA – Wasted Years
Written by Adrian Smith
Published by Imagem London Ltd
P & C: 2015 Daniel Cavanagh
Licensed courtesy of Daniel Cavanagh
www.anathema.ws

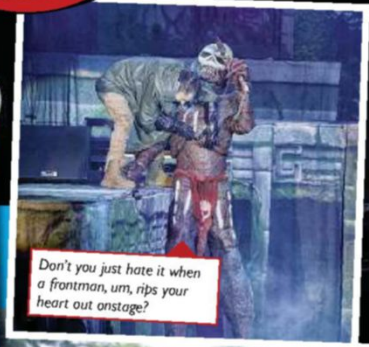
THE BOOK OF GOALS

FOOTBALL NUT AND WEST HAM FAN STEVE DISSECTS THE UPCOMING EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS...

THE FOOTBALL'S ON DURING DOWNLOAD – WHAT D'YOU RECKON FOR ENGLAND'S CHANCES, THEN?
"I've learned not to get too excited about England! It's a bit like West Ham. You learn not to get too excited and you just see what happens! When you've got a team and you think actually they should do pretty good, you just never know. But we've got some good forwards at the moment. [Jamie] Vardy's been on fire this season and you've got Harry Kane [*pictured below*] as well, and Marcus Rashford now coming in. When you've got a team that can score goals, you've got half a chance."

THAT'S ALWAYS GOOD FOR A FOOTBALL TEAM...
"Exactly. You've got to score goals. Slaven Bilic's come in [as manager] for West Ham and he's been fantastic because he's attack-minded, which is what fans have been wanting for years. Try to score more goals than they score at the other end, which is great."

HAVE YOU EVER GONE UP AGAINST AN ENGLAND MATCH AT A FESTIVAL? SABBATH OVERLAP A BIT WITH THE ENGLAND MATCH...
"I know on this tour, in Paris, France play Romania. They play at 8pm and we're on at 8:30pm, so you think, 'What's going to happen with that?!' We've had games before – England games or West Ham games – while we were on and we'll get the scores and Bruce will announce them!"



Don't you just hate it when a frontman, um, rips your heart out onstage?

Someone wasn't going to let forgetting to put on a Maiden shirt ruin their day...

Adrian Smith (left) didn't get the memo to cut his solo short

Maiden: literally blowing the roof off venues since 1975

Um, Nicko, if you're here, who's on drums right now?

went up to Nicko and said, 'Can we calm down here, because this is going to get away from us.' We brought it back a bit and then settled down. But we were a bit like headless chickens for the first few songs, and I think if you listen back to it, you can actually hear it."

Now, though, such nerves are gone. Maiden are the house band at Donington Park. Adrian Smith says that the time at home around the festival will see a slight return to reality ("You have to think about taking the kids to school and paying bills and all that"), while Dave reckons it'll be nice to come home to Britain and feel like you've definitely made your presence felt. He, Adrian and Janick will probably get to site as late as possible, on account of nerves building up and taking their toll on energy levels. Steve and Bruce, however, will probably get down there early, because that's just what they do.

"I don't really get nervous," admits Steve. "You feel more concerned about making sure other people are there and having a good time, really. If they're all there, family and friends, then you can start thinking about yourself. There's a lot of pressure, but I wouldn't say I get nervous, I feel confident about us as a band, and if you're confident, you don't get nervous, do you?"

And so, on June 12, Iron Maiden will once again make Donington Park their own. And they'll do it armed with a clutch of new songs, a new stage set and the same dogged determination to prove themselves as ever. It comes after a first half of a year spent traversing the globe and continuing to find new places to have an adventure in their own plane.

Watching them in front of 20,000 ecstatic Germans this evening, it's easy to see why Maiden remain at the top of their game: constant improvements, always looking for something new. It pays off, as tonight's highlights are drawn almost exclusively from The Book Of Souls. In fact, the only drag as far as Steve can see is being on the wrong side of the world from other cool shit that's going on.

"You get things that you really would like to do, whether it's a football match or you'd like to go watch another band or you'd like to do whatever, and you can't because you're doing a gig," he sighs. "It's a minor thing, because playing live is better than anything. But people sometimes ask me what's the downside of touring and that's probably one of them. You do what you do and there's always things cropping up. I don't know, if Jethro Tull were playing or something like that, and I think, 'I'd love to go and see this,' but I can't because they're in a different part of the world than we are."

But that's a minor niggle. And what's kept the Maiden engine burning for nearly four decades is a love of what they do. And, aware that he's not as young as he once was, Steve Harris is trying to enjoy every second.

"We're not getting any younger," he smiles, "And that's why I just love playing and I just like to get out as much as I can. Because obviously there'll come a day when it's not happening, and that's going to be a pretty sad day."

Indeed it will. But not at Download, and not today. And as he heads off to prepare for tonight's show, just as he'll do for Download, with not a lot of nerves, but with a lot of care, Steve Harris remains a man you can't help but admire. And while there will eventually be an end for Maiden, now is not it. In fact, they've not felt this fresh and energised for ages. It's quite something to behold.

So, this Sunday, are you ready? All in favour, *SCREAM FOR US, DOWNLOAD!*

TURN OVER FOR 18 STAR-STUDDED INTERVIEWS!

Alex attempted to create a distraction so he could un-wedgie himself

ALL TIME LOW

DAY: FRIDAY **STAGE:** ZIPPO ENCORE STAGE
TIME: 8:55PM – 10:05PM

MAKING THEIR DOWNLOAD DEBUT AT THE HOME OF METAL? NO SWEAT, SAYS ALEX GASKARTH...

SO, HOW COME ALL TIME LOW HAVE NEVER PLAYED DOWNLOAD BEFORE, ALEX?

ALEX GASKARTH (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "I don't know! I guess it never came up… Maybe we've been busy doing our own thing! A lot of times, it hasn't lined up, so it's not like we consciously weren't doing Download. I guess it just hasn't ever been the right time to do it. This year's been a bit of a down-year for us – we haven't had much going on and we're kinda focusing on the next chapter of our band. So, this time, we wanted to do some things that were a little different for us, things we hadn't explored yet. And then Download got in touch saying they had this slot for us and asked if we'd be interested. It's a true rock festival – that's what I'm really excited about. I love doing Reading & Leeds, and all the other festivals, but it's great to do one that is purely dedicated to the rock scene. I actually think we're one of the poppiest bands on the line-up (*laughs*)! I'm excited to blend into that scene – maybe we'll put together a more aggressive set for it and pull off the songs that will fit that crowd a little bit better. I'm very excited about this particular show!"

IS IT SCARIER BEING A POP-PUNK BAND PLAYING TO MORE OF A ROCK/METAL CROWD?

"I think it will be fine. We'll definitely play a bit heavier because there's so much metal and rock on that weekend. It's the 10-year anniversary of our Put Up Or Shut Up EP as well, so I think it might be cool to take some time to play some of the older stuff and let people experience that, too."

WHICH TRACKS OFF THE EP ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING?

"At the beginning of this year we started playing songs off the EP and it went down really well. Plus it was really fun for us – we hadn't played The Girl's A Straight-Up Hustler or Break Out! Break Out! in years! It was a blast, because Coffee Shop Soundtrack and Jasey Rae were the staple songs off that EP, which we've played for years. It's nice to get into the deeper cuts on the EP, and I'm sure it's really refreshing for our live show."

WHO ELSE ARE YOU GOING TO WATCH ON THE DAY? FANCY A BIT OF RAMMSTEIN AFTER YOUR SET?

"Sure! The pyro in their set is insane. We've done a few festivals in mainland Europe with them and we have run over and caught their show before… it's wild! I grew up on Glassjaw, so I'll be watching them, too! They're an awesome band and they always put on a good show. And they're such good musicians individually – they're just one of those perfect-storm bands that know how to impress live."

DOES IT FEEL LIKE THE FUTURE HEARTS CYCLE IS COMING TO AN END?

"That's what it looks like. I feel like the book is closing on that chapter. We've toured our asses off. In a way, I feel like we've toured that one into the ground! Maybe it's time to take a step back and evaluate where we are, and figure out what's next by taking time out. We have a lot of things in the works we haven't able to talk about yet. The U.S. blink-182 tour [this summer] is almost the tip of the iceberg as far as what's next – expect us to be rolling out a lot of announcements!"

AND CONSIDERING HOW CLOSE FUTURE HEARTS CAME TO TOPPING THE U.S. CHARTS, YOU MUST BE GUNNING FOR THAT TOP SPOT NEXT TIME ROUND, SURELY?

"It's so tough! We did not expect to debut that big… We're a band on an indie label that doesn't really get radio play in the States. We don't have a mainstream way of getting music out there. The coolest thing for us is that we've shown there are other ways to do it – you can be an independent artist that grows things from the ground up slowly and still do well in the charts. It gives us that rush of confidence and refreshes our self-belief. Now there's a lot of pressure over doing it again. But who cares… If we do, then amazing. If we don't, it is what it is!"

"WE'RE FOCUSING ON THE NEXT CHAPTER!"
ALEX GASKARTH

DONINGTON SALUTES LEMMY

DOWNLOAD PAYS ITS RESPECTS TO A ROCK ICON

With the rock world still mourning the loss of one of its most iconic stars, Download is set to pay its respects to Lemmy all weekend long. Not only is the main stage – which Motörhead were due to perform on – being renamed in the Great Man's honour, but the void left in the line-up will be filled by the playback of a special commemorative Lemmy film. The tribute begins **Friday** at **5:30pm** on The Lemmy Stage, so make sure you're there to raise a toast to a legend who will never, ever be forgotten.

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA, DAN SLESSOR, PAUL TRAVERS **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES, GETTY

MEGADETH

DAY: SATURDAY **STAGE:** THE LEMMY STAGE **TIME:** 5PM – 6PM

IF YOU SPOT MEGADAVE THROWING UP PRE-SHOW, DON'T WORRY YOURSELF...

YOU'RE COMING INTO THIS YEAR'S DOWNLOAD ON THE BACK OF AN ALBUM MANY CONSIDER THE BEST MEGADETH HAVE MADE IN YEARS. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT?

DAVE MUSTAINE (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "I think it's the best record we've made in a long time. We've always set out to make great records but sometimes something gets lost in the translation. I think [every album] is special in their own way, but Dystopia is better than just about anything we've got."

HOW MUCH DID THE LINE-UP-CHANGE ENERGISE THE BAND FOR THAT ALBUM?

"A lot. Chris Adler [drums] was a breath of fresh air and Kiko [Loureiro, guitar] was so much fun to be around. One misconception about Megadeth, and what doesn't always come across in print, is that we are joking around and being sarcastic and basically taking the piss."

TALKING OF CHRIS ADLER, HE'S CURRENTLY OUT WITH LAMB OF GOD. WHO'S GOING TO BE DRUMMING FOR YOU AT DOWNLOAD, THEN?

"We've got Dirk Verbeuren from Soilwork. He's helping us out in a pinch, but he is a monstrous drummer. We'd all like it to be possible for Chris to be out with us, but not at the expense of our friendship with Lamb Of God. I'm not a home-wrecker – I'm not going to go poaching people from other bands!"

DO YOU EVER GET NERVOUS BEFORE A SHOW?

"I do a little bit, but it's not nerves in a bad way. I get super-excited and adrenalized. I remember one of my friends, who shall remain nameless but was in the Thrash Big Four at one time, told me he used to throw up before every show. And if he didn't throw up, he couldn't play. You don't want that dude doing background vocals on your microphone. 'Hey, why does this mic smell like second-hand pizza?'"

DO YOU HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT YOUR FIRST DONINGTON VISIT, BACK IN 1988?

"Of course. Two fans lost their lives [during Guns N' Roses' set, directly before Megadeth's] and nothing can make up for such a tragic loss of life. I think now frontmen have more of a sense of public safety issues. There's no sense of weakness in telling a crowd to step back, and you'll stop the show if you have to."

WHAT OTHER CHANGES HAVE YOU NOTICED IN METAL FESTS DURING THAT TIME?

"When we played the old Monsters Of Rock, it was a different situation. Back then you had one stage, and you had GN'R, then us and Kiss and Dave Lee Roth and Iron Maiden, all playing one after the other on the same stage. Now you have the multiple stages, which has its advantages – but if your favourite bands are clashing, it's a pain in the ass!"

BABYMETAL

DAY: FRIDAY **STAGE:** THE LEMMY STAGE **TIME:** 3PM – 3:40PM

THE FOX GOD SMILES OVER DONINGTON...

YOU SOLD OUT THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY, AND NOW YOU'RE BACK FOR DOWNLOAD. HOW DOES IT FEEL HAVING SO MUCH LOVE IN THE UK?

SU-METAL (*VOCALS*): "I think of the UK as my second home. Everyone welcomes us and always gives us a supportive push which strengthens us to move forward."

HOW WAS THE WEMBLEY ARENA SHOW FOR YOU?

"At first, there were many people watching us with perplexed faces not knowing what to think of us, but as the show went on, the audience got really excited. It was really moving when we sang The One at Wembley. Everyone sang along with us and it made us super-excited about kicking off our third world tour!"

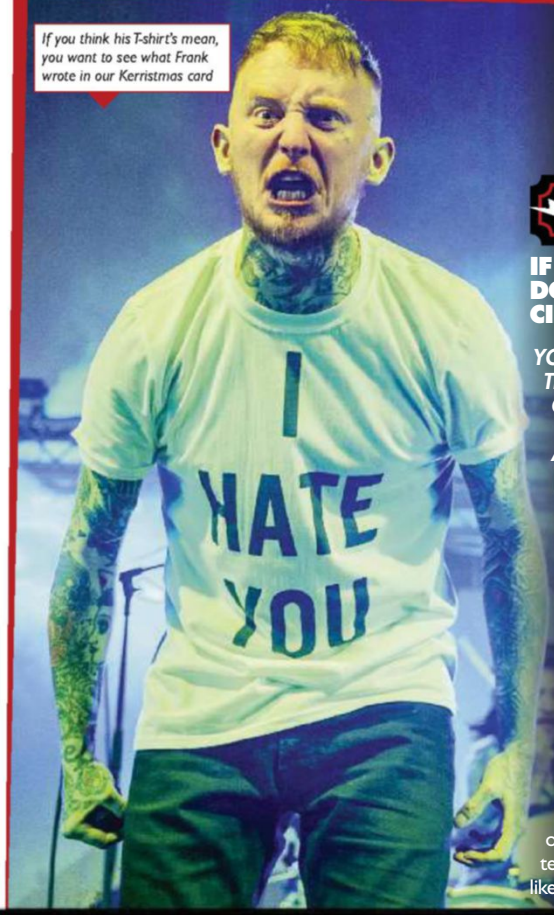
WHAT CAN WE EXPECT WHEN YOU PLAY DOWNLOAD?

"We have no idea how it will all go just yet, but when we perform at festivals we are always challenged to give our best, so we hope to share a powerful performance. Our new album, Metal Resistance, has just been released, so we hope to sing our new songs together with everyone. To be honest, I still can't believe we are performing there – the reality has not hit!"

YOU'VE BEEN ADDED AS CHARACTERS IN THE WII U GAME SUPER MARIO MAKER. IS BEING IN A VIDEO GAME A DREAM COME TRUE?

"I was surprised! I've been playing this game since I was a child, so it *is* a dream come true!"

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES



If you think his T-shirt's mean, you want to see what Frank wrote in our Kerristmas card

DAY: SUNDAY **STAGE:** MAVERICK STAGE **TIME:** 2:35PM – 3:05PM

IF FRANK GETS HIS WAY, DOWNLOAD MIGHT SEE A CIRCLE-PIT LIKE NEVER BEFORE...

YOU RECENTLY DROPPED YOUR YEAR OF THE SNAKE DOCUMENTARY ON YOUTUBE, CHARTING THE CHAOTIC FIRST YEAR OF THE BAND. IS DOWNLOAD AN EXCITING ADDITION TO THE LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS?

FRANK CARTER (*VOCALS*): "Yeah, definitely. We did a lot last year, but what we didn't really get to do was a festival run. We dropped the album [Blossom] in August, and because no-one had really heard the record they didn't want to book us. Download is the start of something like 25 to 30 shows all across Europe over the summer, and it's always nice to kick it off on home territory."

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER FROM PLAYING THERE WITH GALLOWS IN 2007?

"I remember it being one of the defining moments of my *career*. At that point, we'd never played a big festival, but that was the moment that I noticed that the Gallows thing was kind of getting out of hand. We played to maybe 7,000 people in the tent, and it was just madness. I'd never seen anything like it. You don't forget something like that."

THERE'S A DIVERSE LINE-UP ON YOUR STAGE – SAXON ARE HEADLINING, AND YOU'VE ALSO GOT THE LIKES OF GHOST, GOJIRA, ELECTRIC WIZARD AND ATTILA... DOES THAT DIVERSITY WORK FOR YOU OR AGAINST YOU?

"I think if you're ever going to put me on a festival line-up, it's going to be one that has a lot of diversity to it. We're not a punk band, we're not a hardcore band and we're certainly not a metal band, but we've got elements of all of that. What we want to do is be the most memorable band on that stage, and that's a hard job, because fucking *Saxon* and *Ghost* are playing (*laughs*)! We've got a fair amount of work to do, but I thrive under that kind of pressure. I want a ruckus. I want to stand in the middle of 7,000 people and tell them to make a giant circle-pit around me."

AT THE END OF YEAR OF THE SNAKE YOU SAID 'A CHANGE IS COMING' – DOES THAT MEAN NEW MUSIC IS ON THE WAY?

"You'll have to wait and see, won't you? The thing with [debut album] Blossom is that we wrote a load of songs and we picked our favourite ones and put them together. It has this sound where it comes off as pretty eclectic and eccentric as well. With our new record, it's a bit more considered. Our new song is just out, Snake Eyes. It's all about problems that you don't feel you can talk to people about. It's an important song for me – singing it gives me a lot of power, and I'm really excited about people hearing it."

Honest, Floor really is happy to be playing Download…

NIGHTWISH

DAY: SUNDAY **STAGE:** THE LEMMY STAGE **TIME:** 6:40PM – 7:50PM

FINLAND'S FINEST ARE BRINGING A SYMPHONIC TOUCH TO THE MUDDY FIELDS OF DONINGTON

YOU'VE BEEN TOURING ENDLESS FORMS MOST BEAUTIFUL FOR OVER A YEAR NOW – HOW HAS THAT EXPERIENCE BEEN?

FLOOR JANSEN (*VOCALS*): "It's been very special, and everywhere we've gone and everything we've done has gone so far beyond our expectations. Everything seemed to increase; we were able to make the show bigger, attract more people, and we did some really special stuff – like the show at SSE Arena, Wembley, and we played our first-ever stadium show, too."

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT THE WEMBLEY SHOW?

"Well, it was just such a legendary place to play, and it was this amazing step forward-slash-*risk* for us. We booked it not knowing what would even happen, so to sell it out was amazing. Then we started toying with the idea to secure Mr Richard Dawkins [author, who provides spoken-word pieces on Endless Forms Most Beautiful] to deliver his parts *live*. All of a sudden we were there, in this huge sold-out venue and, without coming off arrogant, we played so well that night, we could just *feel* it. The audience was amazing and the icing on the cake was having Mr Dawkins there, and when he was doing his readings it was goosebumps to the max, it really was."

PRODUCTIONS LIKE THAT HAVE BECOME YOUR CALLING-CARD – HOW MUCH ARE YOU PLANNING ON BRINGING TO DOWNLOAD?

"*Everything*! People who were at our Wembley show will have the chance to sort of relive that show with us, in a different setting, but I also think that, for new people who don't really get what we're all about yet, it will make for a proper introduction to Nightwish."

GIVEN IT WILL BE A SHORTER SET TIME THAN YOU'RE USED TO, WILL YOU STILL BE UNLEASHING THE 24-MINUTE EPIC THAT IS THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH?

"Yeah, we need to figure out what we're going to be able to play, because it's only an hour-and-a-bit set, and obviously we want to give the fans as much as we can in that time. So, I can't say what will be in there just yet, but I promise it will be the best we can play!"

YOU PLAYED THERE WHEN YOU WERE FRONTING AFTER FOREVER IN 2007, AND YOU WERE THE SECOND BAND TO PLAY ON ONE OF THE SMALLER STAGES. IS IT SURREAL THAT YOU'RE RETURNING TO PLAY ON THE MAIN STAGE, SECOND FROM THE TOP OF THE BILL?

"It is! When I think about the last time I was there, the thing I most remember is doing a lot of interviews! Because we were quite a small band, we ended up playing to something like 200 people at what felt like 7am. Returning now to play with Nightwish in such a prestigious slot is just fantastic."

GOJIRA

DAY: SUNDAY **STAGE:** MAVERICK STAGE **TIME:** 5:20PM – 6PM

THE WEEKEND OFFERS TWO CHANCES TO SEE GOJIRA: ONSTAGE, AND IN NAPALM DEATH'S PIT...

WHAT DO GOJIRA HAVE IN STORE FOR US AT DOWNLOAD?

JOE DUPLANTIER (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "We're in France right now, just rehearsing the set for the European tour. Actually, I'm a bit out of breath! When is Download again? I can't remember the date! We'll definitely be playing Stranded and Silvera, the two new songs we recently released videos for. Then I think we'll keep the rest of the new stuff for after the album [Magma, out June 17] has been released. We like to keep our secrets well-protected! Plus, we don't want to fuck-up a song and have people be like, 'So, that's the new stuff, huh?' So, those are the two songs we'll play – it'll give some nice fresh air to our set list. We've done a few changes here and there, so it all feels brand-new."

SPEAKING OF THE VIDEOS, THE ONE YOU MADE FOR SILVERA COULD BE ONE OF THE BEST WE'VE SEEN THIS YEAR!

"We had a blast doing that, playing on top of a building! I really wanted to change the usual routine of black-and-white artsy or cryptic cartoony stuff we usually do. It felt like we should do something special to really make it shine. The colour, the movement – those kind of ideas all reflecting what you hear in the song."

WHAT ARE YOU LIKE 10 MINUTES BEFORE HITTING THE STAGE?

"I'd say usually around then we're not able to formally communicate with people. We're off in our own world! We'll be getting ready backstage or on the side of the stage. Then we have a ritual we do as a band – nothing original there! It's just a normally romantic band hug, that's all we do!"

YOU'RE SANDWICHED IN-BETWEEN GHOST AND ELECTRIC WIZARD. ANY PLANS TO CHECK OUT THEIR SETS, TOO?

"I'm always curious to watch the other bands. A lot of the times we can't, because we'll be doing interviews and stuff like that, but I never stop being excited to see what else is happening on the scene; what band is gonna kick ass and what band is gonna suck! But, to be honest, it's a celebration. It's not about being critical, it's about rock'n'roll and metal… and beer!"

AND THEN, OF COURSE, COMES IRON MAIDEN, JANE'S ADDICTION AND NAPALM DEATH!

"I *love* Napalm Death. And I've always admired the attitude and spirit of the band. It's always a pleasure to watch them play. Every time I've seen them, I've had this big smile on my face. So, I would love to catch them, though I don't know if that's doable yet or not. And then… Iron Maiden! I mean, they're the godfathers of our genre – you *can't* miss them!"

ARCHITECTS

DAY: SATURDAY **STAGE:** ZIPPO ENCORE STAGE **TIME:** 6:05PM – 6:45PM

ALL OUR GODS HAVE COME TO DOWNLOAD...

ALL OUR GODS HAVE ABANDONED US HAS BEEN OUT A COUPLE OF WEEKS NOW – HOW HAS THE REACTION BEEN?

SAM CARTER (*VOCALS*): "It's been awesome. We played two record release shows in Brighton and had the chance to debut some of the songs live, and the response has been wild. That so many people seem to understand where it's coming from has just been amazing."

WILL WE BE HEARING MANY OF THE NEW SONGS AT DOWNLOAD?

"Yeah, but I think we only have a 40-minute set, so we'll be playing the big ones with some of the newer ones in there. It's cool being able to play such a big show and have the chance to throw all the bangers at people. Plus, we get to see Sabbath, and Deftones' set starts five minutes before the end of ours, so we're going to finish and then *run* to see them!"

RUMOUR HAS IT, AFTER YOUR DOWNLOAD DEBUT IN 2007 YOU TRIED TO CRASH A PARTY IN TOMMY LEE'S DRESSING ROOM...

"Yeah, that was me! We were young and excited and being idiots! I went up to his dressing room, and I could see that he had someone stood just outside the door with a list, so I walked up to him and was like, 'Yo, Tommy put me on the guestlist!' And then Tommy Lee opened the door, took one look at me, said, 'Nope,' and shut the door again!"

"I WAS BOPPING AROUND ON ACID TO VAN HALEN!"
PERRY FARRELL

Dave Navarro (left) and Perry Farrell began this staring contest in 1985, and they'd be damned if they were quitting now

JANE'S ADDICTION

DAY: SUNDAY **STAGE:** ZIPPO ENCORE STAGE
TIME: 7:25PM – 8:35PM

NXT'S DONINGTON TAKEOVER!

THE WORLD OF WRESTLING'S UP-AND-COMING STARS GET READY TO GRAPPLE WITH DOWNLOAD...

For once, your struggle overcoming a hangover while sleeping in a field isn't going to be the biggest battle of Download. Because, for the first time ever, WWE will be bringing NXT Live! to Donington! The main arena will play host to superstars including **Finn Bálor** (pictured), **Bayley**, **Baron Corbin**, **Shinsuke Nakamura** and loads more. Matches and signings take place all weekend – head to the NXT ring for the daily schedule!

WHY ASK WHAT JANE'S HAVE IN STORE WHEN YOU CAN JUST LET PERRY FARRELL TELL STORIES?

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE PLAYING DOWNLOAD?

PERRY FARRELL (*VOCALS*): "It feels great, although I should have looked to see if we've showed up in the line-up before. We *might* have done Download once…"

YOU'VE PLAYED DOWNLOAD WITH SATELLITE PARTY, BUT NOT JANE'S…

"Okay, great! So, do you want to give me a bit of information about how it differs from other festivals?"

WELL IT'S LARGELY FOCUSED ON HEAVY MUSIC… WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS FOR YOUR SET?

"I love the blues. The blues has been around for a good 100 years, so it had to evolve. The way that things evolve is by adding styles and artistic slants. I therefore think of Jane's Addiction doing a tougher set. If you think about classic groups… Let's say The Stooges. A lot of people give them the credit for creating the sound of punk – but it really came out of rock, which came out of blues. So, going into Download I would stay away from a lot of the ballads, and just give them the rough stuff. Sound fair?"

SOUNDS PERFECT TO US. TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE…

"I remember when we were supposed to be playing Glastonbury. Jane's Addiction came over for our first festival experience and I'd lost my voice. We'd done a show the night before and maybe that wasn't too smart of an idea, but we gave it everything. The next day, I woke up and I couldn't speak, so I had to cancel the show. I never got to see Glastonbury. I went home and my booking agent said, 'You should put together your own thing.' I put together Lollapalooza in my head about what a festival should be and it ended up being quite different to Glastonbury…"

WHAT ABOUT AS A FESTIVAL-GOER?

"Oh, my first experience as a 'punter', as you guys say… Well, you know, I'm 58 years old, man. There weren't many festivals before Lollapalooza. There was Woodstock and Monterey, but that was it. In the early '80s, there was one called The US Festival. I was just bopping around there with no shoes on, on acid, and David Bowie, Van Halen and Mötley Crüe played. Do you want to hear a weird story?"

OF COURSE…

"There was this girl that I lived with – the first girl I lived with – wait, hold on… (*There's talking in the background*) Sorry, that's my wife; she might not be down with this story. This girl had got in with a different group of friends and was stripping behind my back, and she ended up leaving. Months later, US Festival came around and I went there, still with a broken heart. When I was watching the Ramones on LSD, who do I run into? The very girl – and we start making out and rolling around on the dry grass. I thought we'd let bygones be bygones. Well, she went off and I waited for her to come back, and she came back with this hot dude with big blue eyes and long blonde hair – he looked like Jesus Christ – and I was this skinny little Jewish kid with a kinky haircut. She walked right by me and started laughing. My heart was rebroken. I know you're going to say it's because I was on LSD, but at that moment I had pre-cog that one day I would put on festivals…"

RIIIGHT. YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING ON FESTIVALS FOR YEARS. IS IT ODD TO GO TO SOMEONE ELSE'S? DO YOU WALK AROUND WITH A CLIPBOARD CHECKING EVERYTHING'S IN ORDER?

"(*Laughs*) Yes, it's very hard for me to put my clipboard down – I don't know what to do with my hands. I don't actually have a clipboard. Everyone else has walkie talkies – I don't even have one of those. I have my wife; my wife is my hard drive, she remembers everything and knows what I should and should *not* be doing. I wouldn't be talking to you now if it wasn't for my wife. In answer to your question, I do sit there and criticise festivals, because I criticise my *own* festival. It's how you get better. I focus on the audience; I make eye contact with them to see how they're feeling, like a parent does with a child."

LASTLY, HOW DOES PERRY FARRELL PREPARE TO GO ONSTAGE?

"I like to strip down and get dressed in a room with a couple of beautiful women in it. It works!"

OUR DOWNLOAD PREVIEW CONTINUES ON P36!

WORDS: JAMES HICKIE, AMIT SHARMA, DAN SLESSOR PHOTOS: GETTY

EURO 2016

SPECIAL

NEW YEARS DAY

ASH COSTELLO

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

EURO 2016

SPECIAL

YOUNG GUNS

GUSTAV WOOD

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

EURO 2016

SPECIAL

BURY TOMORROW

DANI WINTER-BATES

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

EURO 2016
SPECIAL

AS IT IS

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

EURO 2016
SPECIAL
ROAM
ALEX COSTELLO

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

EURO 2016
SPECIAL
MALLORY KNOX
MIKEY CHAPMAN
PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

WELCOME BACK TO THE K! DOWNLOAD PREVIEW!

Caleb wasn't thrilled at the idea of paying £6 for a festival burger

BEARTOOTH

DAY: SATURDAY **STAGE:** THE LEMMY STAGE
TIME: 12:05PM – 12:45PM

DONINGTON IS SET TO WELCOME A HAPPIER CALEB SHOMO, PAUL TRAVERS HEARS...

"You need to wake up, I need more," roars Beartooth frontman Caleb Shomo, like a personal trainer on the cusp of hulking out. As the crowd forms a dual circle-pit around the tent's two supporting columns, a steady stream of crowd-surfers rolls towards the stage and the words to self-hate anthems like The Lines and Relapsing are hollered out en masse, it's difficult to see how this crowd could actually give much more. In an all-too-brief but utterly exhilarating seven-song set, Beartooth beat a willing audience into a mass of quivering, sweat-slicked flesh, putting on one of the performances of the weekend in the process.

"It was one of my favourite shows we've ever played as a band," recalls Caleb of his band's UK festival debut at Download last year. "I'm a little bit more nervous this time, playing the main stage. It's just a massive milestone for me as a musician. I put a lot of pressure on myself to really bring the heat, but I can't wait for it."

So, how does it feel to go out there and tune in to that sort of energy?

"It's indescribable, honestly," he beams. "When you walk out on a stage and see an endless sea of people and everybody's energy is just right, there's truly no better feeling. You can get that feeling anywhere – whether it's a small club and you're playing to 200 people, or whether you're playing to 20,000 people at Download. As long as everybody's having an amazing time and really feeling the energy of the music, it's perhaps the best feeling in the entire world."

If Caleb Shomo seems somewhat fervent and impassioned about this, that's because he is. Music is not just the way that he earns his living and supports his family – it's the way he lives his life. It's also his release, his outlet and the one thing that helps keep his ever-lurking demons at bay.

Take a song like the ironically-titled Rock Is Dead from new Beartooth album Aggressive, which sees the frontman declaring, '*If rock'n'roll's dead you can kill me right now*'.

"That song is about my love for music and specifically rock music," he nods. "Ever since I was a kid, it's been the only constant in my life. Emotionally, no matter what I'm feeling, there's always something I can turn to within music, whether it's listening to a certain album or writing an album. It's always been my go-to way of keeping my head on straight."

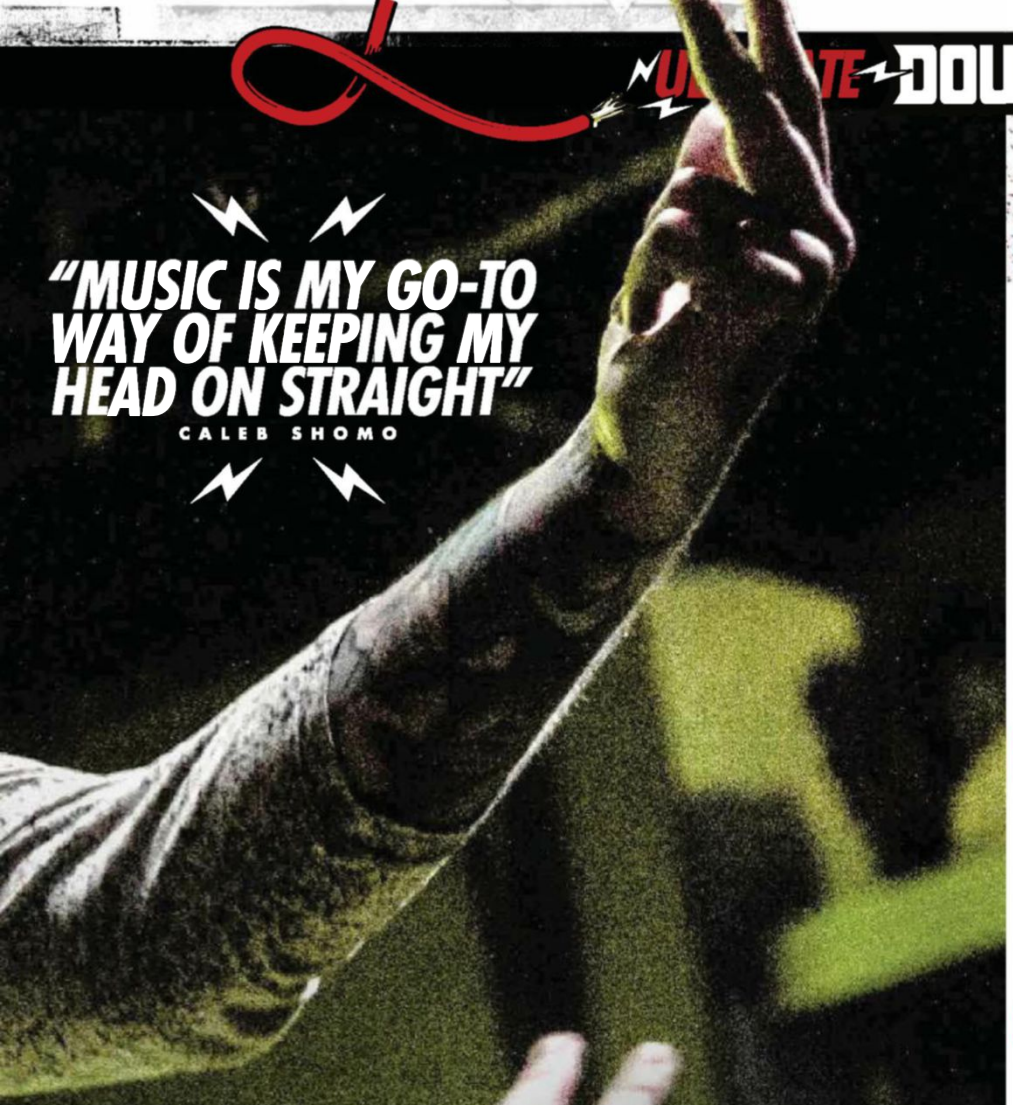
It might not be apparent from the boundless energy and general positivity he exudes onstage, but keeping his head on straight, as Caleb puts it, has been a constant battle for the frontman since his teens, and it's not one that he's always found himself winning. Scratch the lyrical surface of the band's 2014 debut, Disgusting, and you'll find a whole lot of self-loathing.

"On that album I dove really deep into a lot of personal things I'd been avoiding up to that point," he says. "Whereas I think Aggressive really just solidifies the realisation that life is good. I know that sounds pretty simple. Writing a Beartooth record in general is a pretty intense process for me, but it turned out a lot more hopeful than the first record, which made me really happy."

Aggressive is certainly a more positive album, but that doesn't mean that Caleb has conquered those demons, forever, in one fell swoop. Depression and anxiety doesn't work that way, and Caleb Shomo is self-aware enough to know that.

'Finally feeling change / New life, new book with a fresh page / I know I shouldn't feel down / But

PHOTO: BRIANNA STACY



"MUSIC IS MY GO-TO WAY OF KEEPING MY HEAD ON STRAIGHT"

CALEB SHOMO

every night these thoughts keep staying around', he sings on Find A Way.

"Regardless of how things are going in my life or how I'm feeling at the moment, there's always a lingering feeling that maybe the depression will come back and maybe the crippling anxiety will come back," he explains. "So, that song's about the daily struggle of trying to stay in a positive mind-set. Clinical depression is something that, to a point, is beyond something you can totally control. But I think you can learn to deal with it in a healthy way and that song's about figuring that struggle out."

King Of Anything, meanwhile, deals with the singer's deep discomfort at being regarded as any kind of role model.

"I'm just as fucked-up as the next guy," he sighs. "I get very anxious talking to people after shows and things, and in no way is that me trying to be, 'Oh, I'm too cool to talk to the fans.' It's genuine anxiety. I get nervous and don't know what to say and start to feel really awkward, so I tend to shut off after our show and like to be alone."

Caleb Shomo is wise enough to know that he doesn't know everything and driven enough to try to affect a positive change in his own life.

"Aggression can absolutely be a positive force," he opines. "This record is about aggressively pursuing that hope and positive emotion and doing whatever it takes to be happy and be okay with yourself."

He might not be happy being held up as a role model but, when he steps out onto that stage this weekend, there will certainly be plenty to admire.

***AGGRESSIVE* IS OUT NOW VIA RED BULL RECORDS**

CALEB'S DONINGTON TO-DO LIST

THREE BANDS THE BEARTOOTH MAN RECOMMENDS YOU CHECK OUT AT DOWNLOAD...

BURY TOMORROW

"Bury Tomorrow will be a special one for me because they're really good friends of mine. I got to work on their last album that came out recently, and they put on a really fun live show."

SATURDAY, ZIPPO ENCORE STAGE, 4PM – 4:30PM

GHOST

"I saw Ghost for the first time a few days ago at another festival. The show they put on is like a theatrical performance, but they're also an extremely tight live band. Everything about them is impressive."

SUNDAY, MAVERICK STAGE, 6:25PM – 7:10PM

PERIPHERY

"They're unbelievable musicians. There was actually a tornado at this festival we played with them once, so we got stuck in a room with them for two hours. We shot the shit and drank some beers and they were great guys."

SUNDAY, ZIPPO ENCORE STAGE, 2:10PM – 2:40PM

FRESH BLOOD COMES TO DOWNLOAD

K! NEW MUSIC EDITOR EMILY CARTER PICKS 10 FUTURE MEGASTARS NOT TO MISS THIS WEEKEND!

REIGNING DAYS

Bummed that Muse aren't at Download again this year? Move over, Matt Bellamy, because there's another Teignmouth trio with equally colossal riffs to make up for it.

SATURDAY, DOGTOOTH STAGE, 12:40PM – 1:05PM

BLACK PEAKS

Fresh from supporting Deftones at SSE Arena, Wembley, these weird rockers will be on fine form to wow the Download crowd. Spoiler: will contain an excellent moustache.

SATURDAY, MAVERICK STAGE, 12:45PM – 1:15PM

ZOAX

Want weird? You got it. Like System Of A Down joining forces with Refused, catch ZOAX if you like having your personal space invaded.

FRIDAY, MAVERICK STAGE, 2:40PM – 3:05PM

BLACK FOXXES

The Exeter three-piece mob's aim is to "play what comes naturally, do it as loud as possible and with no gimmicks", and they'll be sure to deliver that and then some.

SUNDAY, DOGTOOTH STAGE, 4PM – 4:25PM

HILL VALLEY HIGH

While the Donington Park bash is predominantly known for its metal, Chester pop-rockers Hill Valley High will be there for when the mosh gets too much.

FRIDAY, MAVERICK STAGE, 1PM – 1:25PM

VUKOVI

Their name means 'wolves' in Serbian, and these noisy Scots will guarantee a wild time for their first-ever Download slot. One of the coolest new bands in rock.

SUNDAY, DOGTOOTH STAGE, 11:50PM – 12:15PM

COUNTING DAYS

The UK's most exciting metalcore band that aren't called Architects, Counting Days will be serving up a bucketload of riffs and killer vocals.

FRIDAY, DOGTOOTH STAGE, 6PM – 6:25PM

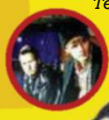
MUNCIE GIRLS

K! Awards Best British Newcomer nominees come armed with catchy punk rock. You should know them by now, but if not, now's your chance to get acquainted.

SUNDAY, DOGTOOTH STAGE, 2:20PM – 2:45PM

STRANGE BONES

This gnarly Blackpool gang are sure to leave a lasting impression with their new Foo Fighters' Chris Shiflett-produced God Save The Teen EP and rowdy live show.



FRIDAY, DOGTOOTH STAGE, 4:20PM – 4:45PM

CANE HILL

With Corey Taylor not making his usual Download appearance in 2016, 'Knot fans will get their nu-metal quota filled by metal's most badass new band. You're welcome, maggots.

SATURDAY, DOGTOOTH STAGE, 5:50PM – 6:20PM

TWIN ATLANTIC

DAY: FRIDAY **STAGE:** ZIPPO ENCORE
STAGE **TIME:** 7:30PM – 8:25PM

CHALLENGES? TWIN ATLANTIC THRIVE ON CHALLENGES...

WHAT STANDS OUT IN YOUR MEMORY FROM YOUR LAST DONINGTON VISIT, IN 2009?

SAM McTRUSTY (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "I remember it was actually *sunny*! We didn't expect anyone to come and see us, because we hadn't played many festivals outside of Scotland, and I think that was maybe the first time that we realised we had fans in England, too!"

YOU'VE BEEN BEAVERING AWAY ON A NEW ALBUM – SO IS DOWNLOAD GOING TO BE A WELCOME ESCAPE FROM THE STUDIO?

"Well, we actually finished the album ages ago – we did it so quickly that we didn't even feel like we'd recorded one! We've been sitting around doing nothing, so to get to play a rock festival is even *more* welcome! We've been losing our minds!"

SO, WE'LL BE GETTING SOME NEW SONGS AT DOWNLOAD, THEN?

"Definitely, and it'll be cool to see how the songs will fit into the set, because all of our songs are really quite different to one another. Stylistically, we always want to challenge ourselves, and our fans, and with this record we're challenging what rock music can be. Making an album like this makes you question everything. We kind of got to the point where we weren't pushing ourselves to the limit with the ferocity we used to. That's kind of why the first big show back is Download. It's a big step back for us."

BILLY TALENT

DAY: SUNDAY **STAGE:** ZIPPO ENCORE
STAGE **TIME:** 6:10PM – 6:55PM

NEW SONGS, DIFFERENT DRUMMER, SAME FEAR OF HEIGHTS FOR THE RETURNING CANADIANS...

YOU'VE BEEN HOLED UP IN THE STUDIO WORKING ON A NEW ALBUM, AFRAID OF HEIGHTS. ARE YOU ITCHING TO GET OUT OF THERE AND IN FRONT OF THE FANS AGAIN?

BEN KOWALEWICZ (*VOCALS*): "More than you fucking know! It's been a crazy, amazing, insane ride over the past six months, and to finally have the record finished feels so good. We just want to get out there and start playing these songs, making some new friends and seeing our old ones. Personally, I'm not a huge fan of going to see a band at a festival and they say, 'We're going to play seven songs off our new record!' Yeah, fuck off, give me *the hits*! (*Laughs*) I think we'll probably play three or four, though, but we won't go too hard on it to begin with!"

GIVEN THE ALBUM'S TITLE, IS IT UNLIKELY WE'LL BE SEEING YOU SCALING THE SCAFFOLD DURING YOUR SET?

"(*Laughs*) Well, the title's meant a little more metaphorically than that! The whole record is about us, as a society, being afraid to take it to the next level of where we're at. I've always been a firm believer that by this point in time we'd be much more advanced than we are – not in a technological sort of way, but in a good-human-being kind of way, in terms of how we treat each other as people. But, you look around and there are people out there who are going to vote for a piece of shit like Donald Trump, it's just so fucking *wrong*. But, in terms of climbing festival stages, I'm a feet-on-the-ground kind of guy!"

HEADING OUT ON TOUR FOR THE NEW RECORD IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'LL HAVE TOURED WITHOUT YOUR DRUMMER, AARON SOLOWONIUK, WHO HAS HAD TO STEP AWAY TO DEAL WITH SERIOUS ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES. HOW IS HE DOING AT THE MOMENT?

"He's far from the point he *wants* to be, but he is *definitely* on the road to recovery. Him stepping down was the hardest decision we've ever made. Yeah, rock'n'roll is fun, but health takes precedent over everything. He's a father and a husband and a son, and he needs to get himself back to a place where he can be back behind the kit, and we can't wait for that day."

JORDAN HASTINGS OF ALEXISONFIRE HAS STEPPED IN BEHIND THE KIT – HOW'S THAT BEEN?

"He's done an amazing job on the record and is graciously giving us more of his time to come out on the road with us, keeping Aaron's seat warm until he's back and ready to go."

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR **PHOTOS:** DANNY NORTH, GETTY

Munky waited for his roadie to squirt the water directly into his mouth

KORN

DAY: FRIDAY **STAGE:** THE LEMMY
STAGE **TIME:** 7:00PM – 8:10PM

IT'S A DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY FOR THE NU-METAL LEGENDS. EXPECT RIFFS, NOT BIRTHDAY CAKE...

2016 IS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF KORN'S FIRST APPEARANCE AT DONINGTON. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THAT DAY?

JAMES 'MUNKY' SHAFFER (*GUITAR*): "I remember it was in the afternoon and that we were *really* nervous, and the crowd was chanting our name before we even went onstage – which was not helping with the fucking nerves! It was one of the biggest festivals we'd ever played, and we're backstage, hearing them chant, like, 'What are they yelling at!?' I also remember that Ozzy played later in the evening, and I think I saw Sepultura play, too. So, there you go, I didn't burn *all* my fucking brain cells, I do remember some things (*laughs*)!"

YOU'RE DOWNLOAD VETERANS AT THIS POINT – IS IT EVER JUST ANOTHER SHOW, OR IS IT ALWAYS SPECIAL?

"Download is always special. The line-up is always changing and so many great different bands get to be a part of it, so it's always unique, and this year I think it's very special because of The Lemmy Stage. I think there's going to be a lot of memories shared about him and his legacy, and it's a big honour to be on that stage and help have him remembered the way he would want to be: through badass metal!"

WHAT MEMORIES STAND OUT FROM YOUR MANY APPEARANCES THERE?

"When we were there a few years ago, we got to play with Faith No More when they came back [in 2009]. That day it was Faith No More, Limp Bizkit and us that played. I'm still a big Limp Bizkit fan, and I'm still a big Faith No More fan, and getting to play on the same stage as those guys was really special."

WHAT CAN PEOPLE EXPECT FROM KORN ON THE DAY?

"As far as the set list goes, I think we're going to try to make it a mix-up of greatest hits and giving the fans maybe a song or two they haven't heard in a long time. We have such a huge catalogue of songs at this point, and as far as production, I never feel like we're a band that needs a lot of that. I think we just have to sound good! And have the high energy. I think that's what's most important."

2016 IS ALSO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIFE IS PEACHY – WILL YOU BE DIGGING OUT SOME CLASSICS FROM THAT ONE?

"Probably! Y'know, I think one of the shortest, coolest songs ever is the album opener, Twist. It's not really a song, but we came up with this crazy thing and were like, 'How can we use it on a record?' So, we made it the intro to Life Is Peachy, and then at the end of the record there's a hidden track of Jon [Davis, vocals] doing it a cappella. It's awesome!"

DEFTONES

DAY: SATURDAY **STAGE:** THE LEMMY STAGE
TIME: 6:40PM – 7:50PM

FROM WEMBLEY TO DONINGTON IN ONE MONUMENTAL WEEK FOR SACRAMENTO'S GREATEST...

YOU'RE PLAYING THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY AND DOWNLOAD IN THE SAME MONTH. DOES ONE MEAN MORE TO YOU THAN THE OTHER?

CHINO MORENO (*VOCALS*): "Y'know, man, it's pretty exciting stuff whatever. It was never our intention to do both of those bigger gigs so close together, but it's gonna be nice. We were very much looking forward to playing the Wembley show [last November], and sadly we had to postpone it [in the wake of the Paris terror attacks], but, in a way, I'm sort of happy that we waited to come back to do it, because I feel like now our show is pretty fine-tuned, and being able to play new music should be a treat for our fans. And then there's Download – if it's not *the* most iconic metal festival in the world, it's up there, and to be playing with Sabbath on what's looking to be one of their last shows is such an honour. We're very proud to be on that bill."

IS AN ARENA SHOW A VERY DIFFERENT BEAST TO A FESTIVAL SHOW?

"There's similarities, but the dynamic is kind of different. At a festival, everyone's outside and they've been having a good time all day and they're just ready to *rock*, though an arena show, while big, still has a bit more intimacy. Both are great in their own way, though, and I feel like we've always been good at adapting our shows to whatever size venue we find ourselves playing, and we're very particular about picking a set list. In a festival setting we'll leave out the deeper cuts and focus more on high-energy songs to get the crowd moving, while the Wembley show will have some deeper cuts and maybe a few more newer songs for the more invested fans."

HOW HAS IT BEEN INCORPORATING THE SONGS FROM GORE INTO YOUR SET?

"We're taking it slow. So far we've only been putting in two or maybe three at most each night. It's not that we don't *want* to play the songs, but, at the same time, we're not going to force them into the set just to play them. Whatever songs we pick on a given night should complement each other, so when we write a set list we're looking for a good ebb and flow, and sometimes there will be no songs from [2006's] Saturday Night Wrist, and a lot of times there are no songs from the [2003] self-titled record. While I know a lot of people may be bummed, I'd much rather have a cohesive set that's a really good roller coaster of stuff than squeeze things in because we have to."

THIS IS YOUR FOURTH TIME AT DOWNLOAD – DO YOU HAVE ANY STRONG MEMORIES FROM YOUR PREVIOUS APPEARANCES?

"Every time we've played there, it's been a little better for us. The last time we did it was with Rage Against The Machine [in 2010], and that's gotta be probably one of the strongest bands to play with as far energy goes and there's no fat anywhere in there from the first note. You've got to make sure you bring your A-game when they're there, and so that makes it a challenging show, but being challenged is one of the best parts of playing these festivals. People *should* be challenged – if everyone on that stage is raising the bar it makes a for a better show for everybody, including the people who have paid to be there."

THE MAIN STAGE HAS BEEN RENAMED THE LEMMY STAGE IN THE GREAT MAN'S HONOUR. ARE YOU MUCH OF A MOTÖRHEAD FAN?

"I think anyone who enjoys great rock'n'roll has to love them. I got to see them, actually, at Download one of the years I played there, I think with Team Sleep [in 2005]. They were playing in a tent and I made a point of going over there to see them, and Mikkey Dee was drumming, and I'm a huge fan of his playing, and it was amazing. It was loud as shit, like being hit by a wall of sound, and they're a great band that will definitely be missed."

"PLAYING WITH BLACK SABBATH IS AN HONOUR"
CHINO MORENO

ALWAYS MEET YOUR HEROES!

THE KERRANG! SIGNING TENT GIVES YOU THE CHANCE TO GET THAT SELFIE WITH THE STARS...

As far as your pre-festival shopping goes, alongside 'Hula Hoops multipack' and 'Capri-Sun' you should also be adding 'Sharpies' – because the Kerrang! Signing Tent is once again returning to Donington! We'll be open for business all weekend, with stars including **Rammstein**, **Nightwish**, **Shinedown**, **The Amity Affliction** and loads more popping by our stall next to The Lemmy Stage. So, get your selfie face on, then head over to say hello and check out the day's signing schedule!

Chino vowed to never again attempt a shortcut back to his tour bus that led through the festival crowds

Ozzy couldn't stop laughing at Fat Mike's interview, either

BLACK SABBATH

DAY: SATURDAY **STAGE:** THE LEMMY STAGE
TIME: 8:50PM – 10:30PM

AFTER NEARLY 50 YEARS, THE END FOR OZZY, TONY AND GEEZER IS NIGH...

HOW ARE YOU DOING TODAY, OZZY?
OZZY OSBOURNE (*VOCALS*): "I'm good, I'm alright. I've got fucking awful jet-lag. I just flew in two days ago and I'm fucking tired with all the jet-lag. I've been awake since three o'clock in the fucking morning wandering around the fucking house. But I'm okay."

DOWNLOAD'S COMING UP, THOUGH...
"Yeah! And the last time we played at Download, I remember it had been pissing down with rain for about three or four days! We were a bit worried the show would get cancelled or something, but it was great."

THIS YEAR MARKS THE UK ARRIVAL OF 'THE END' WORLD TOUR. HAVE YOU HAD ANY SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT CALLING IT A DAY?
"Well, we just got back from playing in New Zealand, and it was so good and so much fun, and I was thinking, 'Why do we have to stop this now?!' Tony [Iommi, guitar] has had enough, I think. But it's always the same, just as you decide to end it, you realise you're having the time of your life."

> **"JUST AS YOU DECIDE TO END IT, YOU REALISE YOU'RE HAVING THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE"**
> OZZY OSBOURNE

YOU'VE SAID YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE PLAYING ANY NEWER STUFF FROM YOUR LAST RECORD, 13. HOW COME?
"Well, the thing with playing new stuff is it's really hard to get a vibe out of the audience. I dunno if they're listening or if they don't fuckin' like it, I dunno. But, believe it or not, the 13 album was the first time I've ever had a Number One album all over the world."

BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU'RE PLAYING AFTER FOREVER AND HAND OF DOOM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A DECADE...
"Yeah, it's great! Hand Of Doom we haven't played since the '70s, which is a fuckin' long time, man. Tony recently pointed out that we've been doing this, playing music, for 47 years now. That's nuts!"

WHAT MAKES OR BREAKS A FESTIVAL LIKE DOWNLOAD FOR YOU?
"It's all down to the fucking weather, isn't it? If you turn up and it's shit and raining and there's fucking mud everywhere, your first thought is, 'I'm outta here!' I remember seeing a bunch of kids on a grass verge in the middle of the road in the pissing rain, huddling under a blanket, and I just thought, 'Fuck, you're braver than I am!' But that keeps something alive, I think, that spirit."

WHAT GOES THROUGH YOUR MIND WHEN YOU'RE HEADING TO THE STAGE FOR A SHOW AS BIG AS A DOWNLOAD HEADLINE SET?
"I'm just hoping that my fucking voice doesn't blow out, you know? Like, if you're playing a guitar and the guitar breaks, you can just get another one, but a singer's only got one voice. People say that you can fix it with Pro Tools or whatever, but *no*! Not ■■! I have every fucking thing before I go onstage – tea, steam machines, throat sprays, lozenges, chewing gum... Fucking everything!"

HOW DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL WHEN YOU STEP OFFSTAGE AT DONINGTON FOR THE FINAL TIME?
"I haven't got a clue – hopefully the greatest feeling I've ever felt in my fucking life. But it's Murphy's law, isn't it? What can go wrong will go wrong. Once you get on that stage, it's great or bust. My little clock in my head goes, 'Good or bad.' I'll start panicking, but then Tony goes, 'Take your time...' I just hope that we can pull it off."

WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST THING YOU'VE EVER SEEN OR DONE AT A FESTIVAL YOURSELF?
"It was at one of the Donningtons, I can't remember what year, and someone threw a cider bottle onstage. I picked it up and went to take a swig then went, 'Woah, no – it's full of piss!' No, thank you! It's fucking warm, piss is!"

DISTURBED

DAY: SUNDAY **STAGE:** THE LEMMY STAGE **TIME:** 5PM – 6PM

THE SOUND OF SILENCE WILL NEVER BE MORE DEAFENING THAN THIS WEEKEND...

YOU PLAYED DOWNLOAD JUST BEFORE GOING ON HIATUS IN 2011 – WAS THAT A GOOD WAY TO GO OUT ON A HIGH?

DAVID DRAIMAN (*VOCALS*): "Definitely. Going out in front of that many people, and the level of passion that was coming out, was unbelievable."

AND IS IT A GOOD PLACE TO MARK YOUR RETURN TO UK STAGES?

"Very much so. Download is one of the truly great festivals and it's always a tremendous family reunion of sorts. You get to see all the people you haven't seen for a while. There's a great camaraderie and you really can't beat the exuberance of the UK fans. It really is a legendary festival and the fans make it that."

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO WALK ONSTAGE AND LOOK 50,000 PEOPLE IN THE EYES?

"It's surreal. And it's intoxicating. There's nothing like the feeling of the energy exchange that occurs. It's simple mathematics; the more bodies there are, the more energy is being exchanged. The Download audience is so passionate, expressive and full of emotion. It's the kind of thing we feed off."

TALKING OF EMOTION, CAN WE EXPECT TO SEE YOUR COVER OF THE SOUND OF SILENCE IN THE SET?

"It's a difficult song to do live, but you can most definitely expect it."

DO YOU HAVE TO PUT YOURSELF INTO A CERTAIN MIND-SET TO DELIVER A SONG LIKE THAT?

"Absolutely, but I have to do that on each and every one. They all have a slightly different energy to them, and each song requires its own unique mind-set. That one, in particular, because it's so different and ethereal, and because the vocal is left so vulnerable and naked, it definitely requires a certain state of mind."

DO YOU ENJOY PLAYING A FESTIVAL WHERE NOT EVERYBODY MIGHT BE A FAN OF YOUR BAND?

"I always look forward to winning new fans over. But you can only do that through the passion and power of your performance. It's funny, but those people who are supposedly 'actively' not into one band or another are the ones who secretly have their records at home. But because of whatever elitist perceptions pervade certain sections of rock and metal society, they try to make themselves cooler than they themselves would admit (*laughs*)! We're not going to win everyone over, but as long as they're passionate. Love us or hate us – but don't be indifferent."

"Has anyone got any WD-40? The hinges on this top have rusted shut."

HALESTORM

DAY: SUNDAY **STAGE:** THE LEMMY STAGE **TIME:** 2:25PM – 3:10PM

LZZY HALE AND HER CHARGES MAKE THE STEP UP TO THE BIG LEAGUES...

THIS WILL COMPLETE A HAT-TRICK OF DOWNLOAD APPEARANCES FOR HALESTORM. WHAT KEEPS YOU COMING BACK?

LZZY HALE (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "Honestly? The people. There's something about everyone that comes along and camps out. They just know how to festival, if 'festival' was a verb. Every time we come to Download, we lose our minds a little bit. There's so much energy no matter who's onstage. Everyone just comes to rock. It's incredible."

YOU'RE A TRUE DOWNLOAD GRADUATE BAND, TOO, HAVING WORKED YOUR WAY UP THE BILL OVER THE YEARS. HOW EXCITED ARE YOU FOR YOUR MAIN STAGE DEBUT?

"So excited! We're honoured to even be on the main stage this year. At the same time, we've enjoyed the experience of getting to play every stage and all the different people and bands we've been able to see. We've managed to see pretty much every kind of weather, too!"

DOES IT HELP CALM THE NERVES, HAVING PLAYED THE SMALLER STAGES ON YOUR WAY UP?

"I think so, definitely. If we'd been thrown straight onto the main stage, we'd have been super-nervous about it. Now, though, it's not so much nerves. I'd like to describe it like going up the ramp on a roller coaster. Right before the first drop, you think, 'Okay, yeah, I've done this before – I've sung in front of people and I do rock shows 250 nights a year, I can totally do this!' But you're still super-excited and super-crazed because this drop is coming."

YOU'VE GOT SHINEDOWN, WHO YOU'VE TOURED THE UK WITH, AND DAVID DRAIMAN'S DISTURBED, WHO YOU'VE COLLABORATED WITH IN THE PAST, BOTH PLAYING YOUR STAGE. IT MUST BE AWESOME HAVING FAMILIAR FACES WITH YOU BACKSTAGE, RIGHT?

"Oh, absolutely. It's like a family reunion that Download have put together. We're all very hard-working and hard-touring bands, so doing festivals is the only chance we really get to see each other. I love all those dudes; they're like my big brothers at this point."

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE INTO THE WILD LIFE CAME OUT, SO IT SEEMS PRETTY PERFECT THAT YOU GET TO PLAY YOUR BIGGEST SET TO A CROWD THAT HAVE HAD THE TIME TO ABSORB THE NEWER SONGS. THAT'S GOTTA BE AN EXTRA SOURCE OF EXCITEMENT...

"There's nothing like it. It always takes a while for everyone to know the words – and that's the best feeling, seeing crowds singing along to your newest songs. I'm really looking forward to having a lot of mouths singing my lyrics back at me!"

NOFX

DAY: SATURDAY **STAGE:** ZIPPO ENCORE STAGE **TIME:** 8:45PM – 9:55PM

SOMEONE GET FAT MIKE A DIARY, EH...

ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR DOWNLOAD RETURN?

FAT MIKE (*VOCALS/BASS*): "Um, we're playing something called *Download*?"

YEAH.

"Y'know, that's the first I've heard of it!"

UM, YOU'RE HEADLINING ONE OF THE STAGES...

"We are? (*Laughs wildly*) Y'know, they don't tell me things. Wow, that's pretty funny – but thanks for letting me know!"

YOU *HAVE* PLAYED THERE A COUPLE OF TIMES BEFORE – DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF DOING SO?

"I *think* we played when Metallica did a surprise gig [2003]. I *think* that's the festival we're talking about. I remember thinking how sloppy they were. I wasn't very impressed with them."

AND HOW WERE YOU THAT YEAR?

"Well, I'm usually drunk, so I rarely know how we are. All I remember is if I had a good time – and I think I did have a good time."

NOW YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE PLAYING IT, ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK FORWARD TO IT?

"Oh yes, I'm *really* looking forward to the show! Can you make sure that looks very sarcastic in print, please? I mean, I always have a great time in England anyway. And we're *headlining*? Woo hoo! We're still relevant (*laughs*)!"

WHAT SHOULD NOFX VIRGINS BE EXPECTING TO SEE IF THEY CATCH YOU AT DOWNLOAD?

"Get ready for a big disappointment (*laughs*)!"

SEE YOU AT DONINGTON!

WORDS: RYAN DE FREITAS, NICK RUSKELL, DAN SLESSOR, PAUL TRAVERS PHOTO: GETTY

INTERVIEW

LETLIVE.'S PHENOMENAL NEW ALBUM, **IF I'M THE DEVIL...**, WAS BORN IN BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHAOS. **JASON AALON BUTLER** TELLS AMIT SHARMA WHY THE WORLD'S ONLY HOPE RESTS ON MANKIND'S OWN ABILITY TO...

DELIVER US FROM EVIL...

PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES **DIGITAL ART:** STEVE HORSFALL

It's a late afternoon in April 1992, and a mother pushes her six-year-old son on the swings of their local park in Los Angeles' downtown Inglewood. She's just finished a day's work and, tired as she may be, promises have been made to keep. Outside that eternal bond between a mother and child, a quiet tension stalks them. People are on edge. Slowly, the streets around them drown in turmoil – sirens ricocheting off towering concrete infrastructures, flames rising from rebellion and protest following the acquittal of four LAPD officers filmed unlawfully beating black taxi driver Rodney King.

Jason Aalon Butler's earliest memory is profoundly reflective of the man himself. The letlive. founder and frontman searches for beauty in chaos. He may have been not old enough to fully process the events that transpired during that particular visit to the park, but now that he is, the singer focuses on the calm stillness of his mother's love over any sense of impending danger.

"Some people have heard of Inglewood via rap songs, some through violent or political issues in the media," begins Jason, sat in a dark corner of a Camden pub, his hood up and a glass of water nestled in his tattooed hands. "But, to me, Inglewood is *home*. It's shaped me in a way that no other city could. I saw the riots, people running around with televisions. I also saw a lot of my neighbours helping each other out – no-one was breaking into each other's houses. People saw those acts of rebellion as completely self-serving, but, in reality, it was just people saying, 'Yo, we're tired of this.'"

There's another early memory that for Jason remains equally poignant. He was in third grade of elementary school when his teacher, Mrs Nelson ("A totally honorary, not very warm or endearing black woman from the South"), used to veer off curriculum and into America's darkest histories, educating young minds about slave ships and underground railroads.

Also in this class was a young black girl called Patricia, who would be left in tears upon learning of the horrors African Americans were subjected to. Just like when he was back on that swing, Jason initially couldn't comprehend the wider implications of it all. "Before then, all the books we read were about white people coming over, discovering America, inventing Thanksgiving and all that bullshit," he recalls. "I thought, 'Why is this girl crying just from reading a book?'"

And then one day it hit him.

> *"The world needs a place for people to feel freedom"*
> JASON AALON BUTLER

Pinned to Jason's faux-leather jacket today is a button that reads: 'You can't fire me, slaves have to be sold.' It's a belief that stemmed from that awakening, where Jason realised something was seriously wrong with these histories he had been taught. Histories that suddenly started to feel like, well, more than just words on a page.

"My father's black, my grandfather's black and my great-grandfather was a slave," continues the singer. "There are not many degrees of separation between me and *history*. My last name, Butler, is a slave owner's last name, used to keep track of him. It did not belong to my great-grandfather, who came from Africa. This is *in* my timeline."

As he matured into those inevitably awkward adolescent years, the Los Angeles native began to notice more things around him that simply just didn't feel right. To the swarms of devotees congregated outside his local parish church, the Devil was the ruler of all-Hell and the good Lord's greatest nemesis. To Jason, the Devil seemed thread into the very DNA of humanity itself.

"I had this identity crisis, when I became more light-skinned as I got older," he says, before a short pause. "People would say anti-black things to me with the assumption I was part-Latino. White folk would say the word 'n****r' and it would make me feel sick, upset and angry. Now I feel sorry for them and their ignorance, to think that word has *any* place in modern society... as if it did back then! Or the reverse, black folks saying stuff like 'honky' that was anti-white on the assumption I was

letlive.

Getting down is one thing. Standing up? That's a whole different ball game…

mixed Latino or black. I was almost a double-agent. I played on both sides and saw both sides of racism."

The letlive. frontman, however, always saw a degree of separation to these racial slurs. It goes without saying that both turned his stomach, but the varying terminology certainly felt an awful lot more severe coming from one side.

"Now I'm older and have studied how to qualify racism better, I think you have to be in power to be racist," ponders Jason. "You can be prejudiced, but to be racist… That's *segregation*. To plunder another person through the divisions you've created through race, gender or sexual orientation. I know members of my own family were considered less-than for long periods of time. The fate of coloured people in history is *grim*."

The 29-year-old singer's words resonate even deeper in light of racial tensions becoming increasingly at the forefront of recent U.S. politics. Be it the harrowing events in Charleston last year or Donald Trump's threats to "make America great again" and the consequential implications for the self-proclaimed land of the free – or, indeed, the world at large – the headlines often read like a nation set to self-destruct. Too many problems and nowhere near enough solutions. Yet for a utopian dreamer like Jason, it's always about hope not hate – even as the Devil prevails.

"I think there is great potential for my country to self-destruct, but a lot of what you see is an enhancement," he reasons, with a rebellious gleam in his eye. "Like a sick perversion of what *could* happen. There's a lot of conjecture, but that's how they run our country, based on fear. You gain control by division, capture and fear. I don't want anyone reading this to think I'm some sort of nationalist. I'm just saying it's not as bad as it looks."

Even with the remote possibility of Donald Trump sat on his thumbs in the White House, killing time, surrounded by all those red shiny buttons?

"I just wanna say, that will *not* happen," laughs Jason. "Statistically, it can't. The majority of people voting for Trump don't necessarily believe in the overarching racist themes of what he's saying. He's like a demigod to them. He reminds me very much of Adolf Hitler – one of the strongest public speakers of all time. Look at how close one guy came to completely eradicating an entire type of person, disguised as a means to an end; the answer to everyone's problems. I think Trump represents a lot of the American Dream on face value. But, in reality, he's not that at all."

So, who is The Don, then? Some would say he's a devil of sorts…

"He's just a fuckin' millionaire," comes the answer, cutting straight to the chase. "He did not build from scratch – his empire started with an undisclosed donation from his father. Blatant nepotism, that's what it is. The major media's another ruling arm of the system – advertisements trickle back to the government. These aren't even conspiracy theories. I was an advisor for a mock legislature in court, I studied it extensively. Plus, two of my old girlfriends are lawyers for the government. I know how it works, inside and out. I have *experienced* our government."

"Donald Trump reminds me of Hitler"

● JASON AALON BUTLER ●

Knitting was to prove a short-lived tour bus pastime

How much these collective experiences and their nation's unrest seeped into letlive.'s fourth full-length, If I'm The Devil…, remains a bit of a mystery – in any case, the band had enough of their own upheaval to contend with. By Jason's admission, the last year or so has spelled turbulent times for a group he formed at the tender age of 16, beginning with the exit of guitarist Jean Nascimento last February. Add the pressure of contemplating how to further their collective winning streak of 2010's Fake History and 2013's The Blackest Beautiful, and you've got yourself high tension over a fair few sleepless nights. The Devil reared its ugly head once more, only this time disguised as something else entirely.

"We, as a band, were at ends," sighs Jason. "This is the hardest time we've had trying to continue as letlive. – in every way. Personally, creatively, spiritually, no bullshit. We were all on completely different sides of the borders. So, when we came together, there was all this disruption in a bad way, to the point where we couldn't do what was best for the unit. A lot of that was down to our egos."

Though, to be fair, if the letlive. singer does have an ego, he does not let it show.

"I don't mean ego in the usual kinda way," he offers, before quipping, "I couldn't give a fuck if we're on the radio or one guy's fuckin' Discman. I mean the actual front of your brain that sets self-preservation and self-concern. We all possess it, and this time we indulged too much. None of us were willing to accept or trust each other's vision. In the end, I had to apologise to my band and say, 'This is what I've been doing; here's why; I'm sorry.'"

Self-preservation, indeed. One suspects the frontman sees his band as something far bigger than just four individuals. It's an outlet for them and so much more besides. The soul punx are striving for a better world, where individuals come together and learn, instead of being shackled by the chained imprisonment of totalitarian fear. United we stand, divided we fall.

"This is not about me, it's about the message," he shrugs. "And that message is the same as it was 14 years ago. The world needs an open forum to be human, recognise humanity and not worry about religion or race or sexuality. A place for people to truly find and feel freedom. Live and let live."

IF I'M THE DEVIL... IS OUT ON JUNE 10 VIA EPITAPH

THE DEVIL IN I

JASON AALON BUTLER ON THE TIMES HE'S COME CLOSEST TO DOING THE DEVIL'S WORK…

IF YOU'RE THE DEVIL... WHERE DOES IT RESIDE IN YOU?

"There have been many times people have perceived me in such a way that frightened me, and I had to act in a way to disprove them. Your view of yourself can be rather fragile; something that can be built or broken by what others think about you. There have been plenty of times where I've tried to exorcise those proverbial demons. I want to be *somebody* – a certain kind of man, lover, son and human being. When people tell me who I am and who I'm not, that provokes me to act in ways I don't want to."

WHAT WOULD YOU ASK THE DEVIL IF YOU MET HIM?

"'Are you real? Where did you come from, and what is your purpose?' Because to me, the Devil's just an idea. Also, if the Devil is really here, then does that mean there must be a God?"

WHAT SITUATIONS HAVE SUMMONED THE BEAST MOST IN YOUR LIFE?

"There have been times I was searching for investment from a partner – whether romantic or platonic, when I wanted to mean something to someone and vice-versa. It takes a long time for me to want to do that with someone. And there have been one or two times in my life when I'd begun to invest in someone and they've proved why I didn't do it in the first place. It's very emotional when people break my trust – it remains broken. I'm very black-and-white in that regard."

FOR WHAT WOULD YOU SELL YOUR SOUL?

"If I really had to sell my soul, then it would be for friends and family, which includes my dogs. There's no monetary value [that could buy me]. If you did attain something through selling your soul, you'd know every day of your life you sold your sold for that thing, which would dilute whatever it is you got. So, there's no point."

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LIVES

RATINGS
KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

SLAM DUNK

FORUM, HATFIELD. 30.05.16

ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR THE HOME-GROWN UK PUNK FEST, AS IT STARTS ITS SECOND DECADE IN STYLE

WORDS: JESSICA BRIDGEMAN, JAMES HICKIE, JAMES HINGLE, JAMES MACKINNON, NICK RUSKELL **PHOTOS:** CHRIS CASEY, IAN COLLINS, PAUL HARRIES, ANDREW TIMMS

Will from Creeper's moustache was really coming along nicely

KERRANG! FRESH BLOOD STAGE

NEW YEARS DAY HEAD UP A FLOOD OF FRESH TALENT ON K!'S VERY OWN STAGE

THE SUMMER vibes of Slam Dunk are all well and good, but for music to get your blood fizzing then look no further than our own claret-y corner. And who better to kick us off than Yorkshire's **BLOOD YOUTH (KKKK)**? There's no sunshine here as Closure drops, just bouncing bodies and frantic riffs. Following that, Australia's **WITH CONFIDENCE (KKKK)** inject bright pop-punk with Godzilla power, adding gritty stomp to their marshmallowy melodies. Next stop: discombobulation station, as Good Charlotte-endorsed Texans **WATERPARKS (KKKK)** fuse pop-punk with weirdo skronk. Bubblegum choruses follow screamo breakdowns, winning them their first European crowd-surfers on I'm A Natural Blue.

Even more twisted are **CANE HILL (KKKK)**, whose deranged spirit is infectious as the metal deviance of new tune True Love incites today's most delirious circle-pit. Despite the punky rattle of his band, **DEAD! (KKK)** frontman Alex Mountford lacks the same feeling of danger. Instead, the Cure-esque pop of You're So Cheap is what makes them stick out today.

Upping the body count, Sydney bruisers **HELLIONS (KKKK)** bring thunder from Down Under as the lurching grooves of Quality Of Life gets people throwing down like Strictly Come Dancing gone hardcore. After such a pummelling, some tenderness is in order. Fortunately, Blackpool emos **BOSTON MANOR (KKKK)** are on hand to provide gooey feels with the cosy sing-along of Trapped Nerve. But more than their palpable energy, it's their winning personality that's carried them this far, and will take them even further.

"There's a tangible magic in the air tonight," smiles **CREEPER**'s **(KKKKK)** Will Gould, and he's not wrong. How he and Creeper manage to make each blistering show feel special must be sorcery, but a show-stopping Misery with Will leading the crowd like a choir is spellbinding. Keeping the star quotient up is **NEW YEARS DAY (KKKK)** queen Ash Costello. Her commanding gestures and hellish screams whip up crazed pits, and grinding closer Epidemic gives Hatfield one last chance to shake their arses. You want blood? Well, you got it here. (JM)

STAR SHOUT!

ASH COSTELLO

NEW YEARS DAY (VOCALS)

HOW'S YOUR SLAM DUNK BEEN?
"It's been amazing! And we're headlining the Fresh Blood Stage, which I like! Who would I have on my own stage? Ooh, it could be the 'Old Blood' stage, and I could have the Misfits."

YOU GUYS ARE BRINGING A BIT OF GLAMOUR TO THE PROCEEDINGS...
"Thank you! We're sharing a dressing room with Cancer Bats, and they've said we make them feel under-dressed! I offered to show them how to do make-up."

It took all morning, but security finally had the audience in place

13:00 Smell that? That's excitement, that is. Generated by several thousand folks waiting for the gates to open. As if to pour petrol on the fire of Slam Dunk's 11th outing – calling at Leeds, Birmingham and today in Hatfield – they're serenaded by Panic! soundchecking.

13:01 GAME ON! Let's do this!

13:25 **TRASH BOAT (KKK)** kick up Slam Dunk's first circle-pit of the day with Perspective. What the St Albans five-piece lack in polished finishes, they make up for in raw energy and spin-kicks.

13:37 "This song's called I Hope You're Missing Me," says **MOOSE BLOOD (KKK)** frontman Eddy Brewerton. After your recent stormer of a tour, yes we are, and hungry for more. Today they're a little static onstage, but the heavy emotion in the music fills the space.

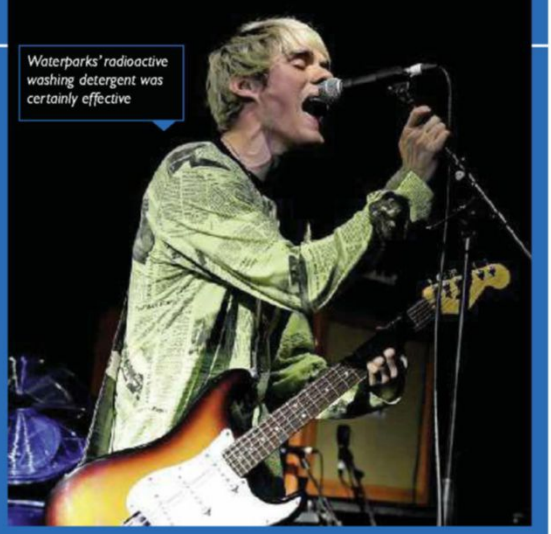
14:10 Oh hello, **THE WORD ALIVE (KKKK)**. What's this? Telle Smith fancies smiling his way around the stage to all the breakdowns, looking like a metalcore game-show host? Fine by us…

14:15 Despite being robbed multiple times on tour in Europe, **ROAM (KKKK)** prove you can't keep a good band down as they bound about like they haven't got a care in the world.

14:25 They bust through Warning Sign. Cue: fun.

14:34 "I want to see you going off," says **YOUNG GUNS (KKKK)** frontman Gustav Wood. Slam Dunk subsequently follows suit.

Young Guns' Royal Shakespeare Company bit got a mixed reaction


Waterparks' radioactive washing detergent was certainly effective

Cane Hill: "Grrrrrrr"

Nobody will ever know we've spliced two Ash Costellos together…

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the stage… AMPERSAND!

STAR SHOUT!

AUSTIN CARLILE

OF MICE & MEN (VOCALS)

YOU'VE NOT PLAYED LIVE FOR A WHILE, HOW WAS IT GETTING BACK IN THE GAME?
"We haven't played in, like, six months, so we've been looking forward to this as much as the fans, I think. We played a small show in London a few nights ago, and that was amazing. It's cool to be able to do a smaller show and give something cool to the fans."

WHAT'S THE WELCOME BACK BEEN LIKE?
"In Birmingham, people were going *crazy*. Our guitar player was in the crowd playing at one point! I looked up during the bit when we get everyone to crouch down, and there he was!"

OF MICE & MEN
KKKK

AUSTIN CARLILE'S METALCORE MEN MAKE A SPECTACULAR RETURN TO THE UK

■ FOR AUSTIN Carlile, the last year has been a turbulent one, with more trips than he would've liked to the hospital. But now, with him looking healthier and fiercer than ever, and with a new, still-under-wraps album tucked safely in their back pocket, they deliver a headline set that's like being super-sonically blasted in the face by a nuclear cyclone. As with their incredible show at O2 Academy Brixton a year ago, tonight Of Mice & Men are a lesson in pure power and emotion.

Songs like The Depths and Public Service Announcement are tailor-made for festival shows, with punishing melodies and off-the-wall crunches that unleash your inner mosh. Despite a lot of folks being over at the Main Stage, dancing their arses off to Panic! At The Disco, there's still barely room to swing the domestic animal of your choice, as chaos erupts to You Make Me Sick, and Austin responds with a huge grin as he surveys the madness in front of him.

There's no new tunes tonight, but the overpowering effectiveness of these songs' familiarity is a deadly weapon. And despite the fact that the band have been shut up in the studio for the last few months, there's absolutely no sign of rust anywhere. This is a band setting their charges and getting ready to explode. And if their new album makes them even more incendiary than this, Of Mice & Men are going to become absolutely unstoppable. A well-earned victory. (JHing)

14.42 New song Bulletproof hints at a return to the more organic heft of second album Bones – with Tigress drummer Josh Coombes ably stepping in for the recently-departed Ben Jolliffe.

15:03 Who is it that **MISS MAY I (KKK)** singer Levi Benton looks like?

15:05 Got it! It's a young James Hetfield. Happily, he's got as much venom in him as a young Papa Het, as he roars his way through Deathless.

16:00 AS IT IS (KKKKK) have had to grow up fast since exploding in the States, and it's this maturity which makes their set such a breeze today.

16:03 Patty Walters' tones sound smooth enough to spread on toast.

16:10 WE CAME AS ROMANS (KKK) arrive. Not dressed in togas, sadly, but the roar/sing action on Who Will Pray? is action enough.

16:14 It's hard to know who's busier during **GNARWOLVES' (KKKK)** set: the Brighton trio unleashing hoarse slabs of punk rock, or security dealing with the deluge of crowd-surfers reacting to it.

16:16 "Put your hands in the sky," says singer-guitarist Thom Weeks. Huh, that's an uncharacteristic bit of Standard Festival Patter there. Ah, turns out he's taking the piss. Fair enough, he and his very real-keeping chums have no need for such thing.

17:05 REAL FRIENDS (KKKK) continue the pop-punk party indoors, opening with Late Nights In My Car for maximum sing-along value. And it works.

17:30 NORTHLANE (KKKK) head up today's Australian charge by kicking up a nonstop pit. Which may not be a good idea in the concrete courtyard housing the stage, but it's also hard to resist.

THE SLAM DUNK MAYHEM CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

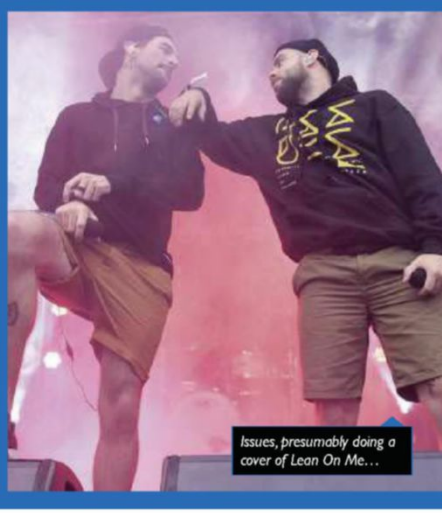
There's always that one really tall bloke right in front of you…

LIVES

Audience member confirms New Found Glory did not pack the Lynx Africa

"Mi-Key phooone hooome"

Cancer Bats' onstage seance was going well



Issues, presumably doing a cover of Lean On Me…

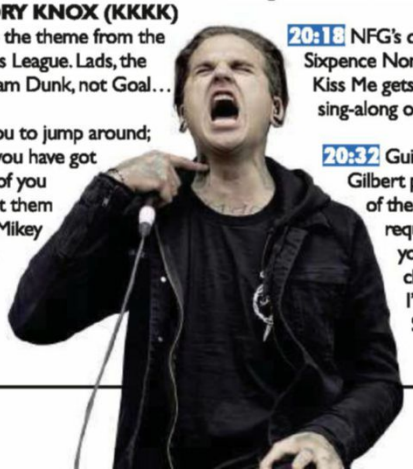
18:11 HACKTIVIST (KKK) waste no time throwing more shapes than a badly-behaved nursery group.

18:12 "You've got a lot to live up to," says co-vocalist Ben Marvin of the high standards set by the two other legs of the festival. They'd know about having big shoes to fill, considering they're covering Jay-Z and Kanye West's N****s In Paris.

18:18 THE AMITY AFFLICTION (KKKK) are on fire today. Studio cobwebs? The Aussie metalcore crew take a flamethrower to them.

18:21 MALLORY KNOX (KKKK) arrive onstage to the theme from the UEFA Champions League. Lads, the festival's called Slam Dunk, not Goal…

18:39 "I want you to jump around; I know some of you have got beers and some of you have egos, but put them down," suggests Mikey Chapman before Heart & Desire. Cue: MASSIVE sing-along.



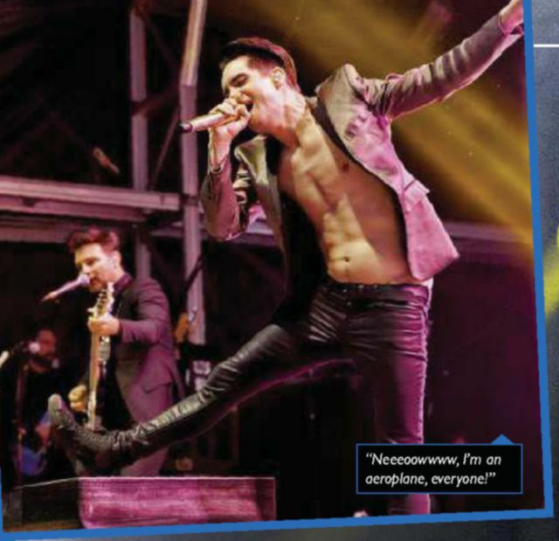
19:50 "Slam Dunk, let's do this," bellows **NEW FOUND GLORY (KKKK)** frontman Jordan Pundik, sporting a bleach-blonde barnet and leading the Floridians into Hit Or Miss.

20:18 NFG's cover of Sixpence None The Richer's Kiss Me gets the biggest sing-along of the set.

20:32 Guitarist Chad Gilbert picks a fan out of the crowd to request a song. The young chap, Phil, chooses At Least I'm Known For Something, which Chad insists he stick around to sing as, "Jordan's getting kind of old; we're looking for a replacement."

20:33 Hearing Phil's vocal performance, we can say with some certainty that Jordan's job is not under threat. Sorry, Phil!

20:40 FOUR YEAR STRONG (KKK) are poised to be a highlight on the Key Club Stage. But while their set is received with elation, sound problems leave some parts of What's In The Box? lost in a fuzzy, distorted haze.


"Neeeoowwww, I'm an aeroplane, everyone!"

Brendon Urie forgets shirt, not even mad

PANIC! AT THE DISCO
KKKK

THE VEGAS LOUNGE LIZARD STRIKES GOLD AS PANIC! FEVER GRIPS HATFIELD

■ PLAYING DRUMS, tickling the ivories, backflipping and possessing rock's most versatile pipes; Brendon Urie is a renaissance man. And thanks to the success of Death Of A Bachelor, Panic! At The Disco are a band in the throes of a renaissance, too. They must know it, because their headline set – which, with its circus Big Top lighting and iridescent screens, is the most extravagant of the festival – sports no less than seven cuts from their latest opulent opus. And while not everything complements one another – the new romantic stylings of Girls/Girls/Boys bumps rather than rubs shoulders with the faltering histrionics of Golden Days – Panic! are at their best when Brendon is explicitly doffing his quiff to his native Las Vegas; a town, he notes, where "everybody wants to fuck everybody". That sleaziness certainly powers the speakeasy swing of Crazy=Genius and the relentlessly panting Miss Jackson, which are both delivered with the kind of confident swagger that means when Brendon says, "We just wrote this song backstage," by way of introduction to Bohemian Rhapsody; for a second you're taken in by him. Despite the Queen classic being as well-worn as a Vegas $1 bill when it comes to being fodder for cover versions, it's certainly a song that sums up Panic! At The Disco: rock dynamism dressed up in theatrical finery. Magnifico! (JH)

STAR SHOUT!

BRENDON URIE

PANIC! AT THE DISCO (VOCALS)

HOW'S YOUR SLAM DUNK BEEN?
"It's been amazing. It's our first time here, but I feel really welcome and really happy to be here. It's a really cool festival to play."

NICE TROUSERS...
"Thank you! I put the leather pants on one day and just thought, 'This feels right,' you know? Are they hard to get on? Not really, that's fine, but after a show they are the *hardest* things to take off! It's a real struggle sometimes, but it's totally worth it!"

Keith Buckley picked a great time to unveil his light-up tail

20:45 Sorry, Patty Walters, but Tyler Carter from **ISSUES (KKKK)** is Slam Dunk's King Of Smooth. It's like Justin Timberlake doing Meshuggah.

20:50 Oh, and he's got feet made of pure swag, as well. The suave bastard.

FYS' Alan Day may have overdone it with the shirt starch

21:05 Liam Cormier may have shaved off his trademark locks for charity, but that doesn't stop the newly-bald **CANCER BATS (KKKK)** frontman putting on a headbanger's masterclass for the frantic Old Blood. The fast cuts are interspersed with moments of dreadnought-like heaviness (Beelzebub, Deathsmarch), giving the set a push-and-pull motion that turns the eager crowd inside-out.

21:42 **THE STORY SO FAR (KKK)** could've suffered after the recent controversy over frontman Parker Cannon kicking a fan offstage, but it's a packed house. And thankfully, the most notable thing about their set is simply how huge Nerve and Quicksand sound today.

22:11 "Everything that just happened during that song was for the first time. Every crowd-surf – it'll go down in history," remarks **EVERY TIME I DIE**'s **(KKKKK)** Keith Buckley after juggernaut-sized new song Glitches. The veterans may have written the book that schooled most of the heavy bands playing today, but they show they've kept a few pages for themselves. Quite simply, nobody at Slam Dunk does chaos better.

22:13 ETID fans like crowd-surfing to songs they do know as well, clearly.

23:15 All done! Slam Dunk's scored another slam dunk. That's festival season started, and there's no finer way to do it.

REVIEWS

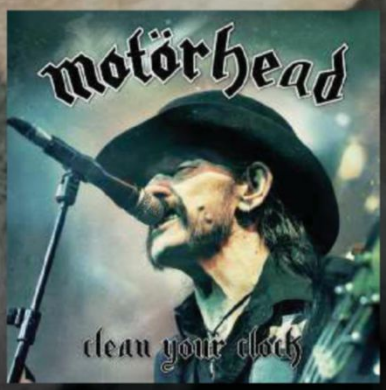
RATINGS
KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

MOTÖRHEAD

CLEAN YOUR CLOCK *(UDR MUSIC)*

KKKK

LEMMY'S LAST STAND IMMORTALISED ON GLORIOUSLY LOUD LIVE CD/DVD SET



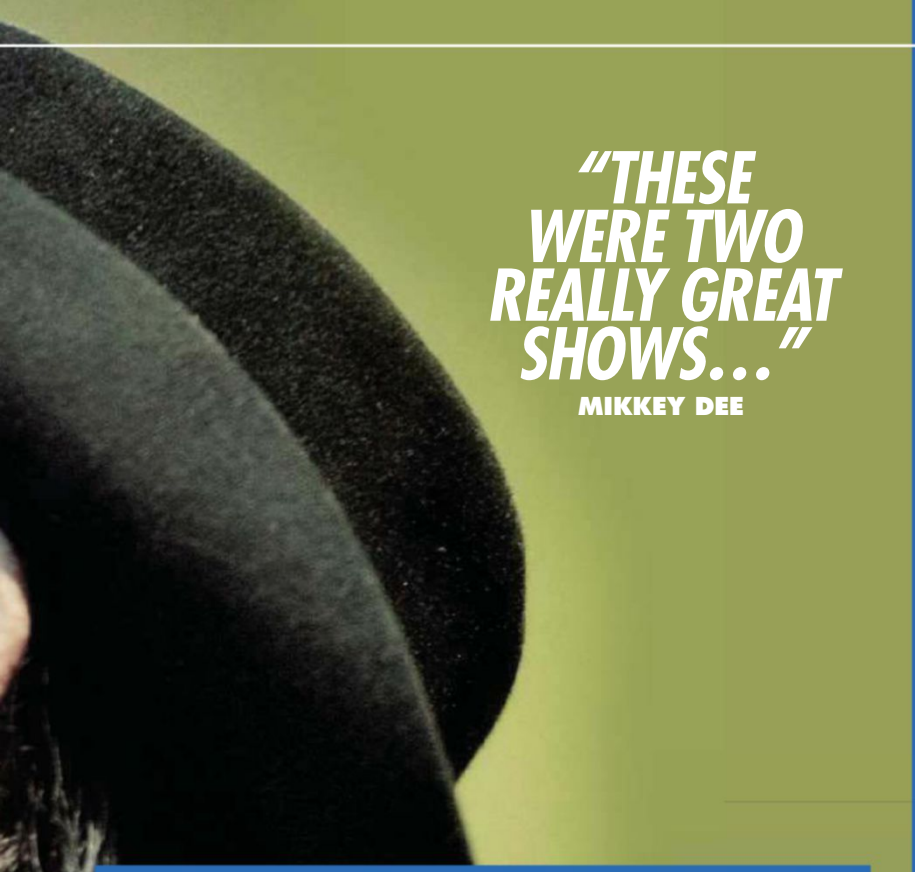
IF YOU were to plot Motörhead's live albums on a graph, they'd appear as a perfect straight line high above the competition. From 1981's No Sleep 'Til Hammersmith – widely regarded as one of the finest live records of all time, and the band's most successful-charting album – to 2012's The Wörld Is Ours Vol. 1 and 2, they served less to chronicle particular creative chapters, but as semi-regular reminders that Motörhead were simply the best (and most consistent) live rock'n'roll band on the planet.

The fact that we're talking about Motörhead as a live band in the past tense is what should make Clean Your Clock – recorded during two shows at the Zenith in Munich on 20 and 21 November, 2015, on what would be their final tour – a difficult listen, but it's actually rather celebratory. And while it's hard to say that these versions of Bomber and The Chase Is Better Than The Catch hold up to the ones on other of the band's esteemed live releases, this set successfully captures the pulverising volume of a band that lived by the motto 'Everything louder than everyone else'. More pertinently, it distils the never-say-die attitude of Lemmy, a man whose idea of compromise was drinking vodka and orange rather than Jack and Coke, and who would die with his boots on just over a month after this show.

Clean Your Clock also does something else that Lemmy would approve of; Motörhead's leader often bemoaned the fact that people were less interested in their new material, so it's great that When The Sky Comes Looking For You and Lost Woman Blues (from last year's 5K-rated Bad Magic and 2013's Aftershock, respectively) are among the highlights here. In pushing these to the forefront, Clean Your Clock acknowledges that whatever the concessions Lemmy had to make to live performances because of his failing health, the band – completed by guitarist of 31 years, Phil Campbell, and "the greatest drummer in the world", Mikkey Dee – were still producing great music until the very end.

And that's what Clean Your Clock is, in a chronological sense – *the end*. Quite literally the final document from Motörhead on a live stage. But in conveying the very qualities that characterised them for 40 years (volume and speed by the truckload), we're reminded – to paraphrase Lemmy's trademark intro to every show – that they are Motörhead, and they'll play rock'n'roll forever.

DOWNLOAD: Lost Woman Blues, Overkill.
FOR FANS OF: Motörhead. *What else do you need?*
JAMES HICKIE



"THESE WERE TWO REALLY GREAT SHOWS..."

MIKKEY DEE

THE INSIDER

MIKKEY DEE

(DRUMS)

WAS MUNICH A GOOD PLACE TO CAPTURE MOTÖRHEAD ON THEIR LAST-EVER TOUR?

"Munich always has that special, insane fucking crowd. We never had a bad show in Germany, really, I can't remember one single show that was bad. Every time we came in to Munich it was something special. You just knew that even if you were tired, you knew what was going to happen."

WERE THE TWO NIGHTS ON CLEAN YOUR CLOCK MOTÖRHEAD AT THEIR BEST?

"No, which is why this live album is a little bit weird in a lot of ways for me. But they were two great shows. It was a really, really good couple of nights, and I told Lemmy that. The shows that we recorded were great shows on the measurement stick of where we were with this band at that moment. Lemmy was sick, obviously. He was fragile. But even with all that, the songs were back up into the tempos they should have been, and playing-wise he was fantastic."

MOTÖRHEAD MADE ONE OF THE MOST ICONIC LIVE ALBUMS EVER IN NO SLEEP 'TIL HAMMERSMITH. WERE YOU A FAN OF THE BAND BACK THEN?

"Yes, before I was in the band I was a fan. When they first appeared on the map, no-one really knew what this shit was. It was something we'd never heard before, but once you had it, you just wanted more. There was a brutality and a 'Fuck you' attitude. It was straight-on, super-hard rock'n'roll and punk and blues all mixed together, and it was all captured on that album."

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS

TRACK BY TRACK

WITH CONFIDENCE

BETTER WEATHER *(HOPELESS)*

KKKK

AUSTRALIAN POP-PUNK NEWBIES SHOW MAJOR PROMISE ON STORMING DEBUT ALBUM

1 *VOLDEMORT*
A pop-punk band from Sydney, Australia. Sound familiar, 5SOS fans? Except these guys don't have a One Direction tour to give them a leg-up – they're doing it the hard way. They make it look easy, however, with this fast-paced opener named after Harry Potter's nemesis.

2 *KEEPER*
Less polished and a little rawer than the opener, this has a ragged charm. Should appeal to Neck Deep fans and anyone who likes pop-punk they can shout along to. A keeper, indeed.

3 *ARCHERS*
A pop-punk band singing about wanting to leave their hometown? Uh oh! The dynamic, super-varied vocals stop it being cliché, though, and keep your ears guessing.

4 *WE'LL BE OKAY*
The song that brought us all here – We'll Be Okay is the catchy, PMA pop-punk tune of the summer. There's only one problem… it's too short. Better listen on repeat, then.

5 *GRAVITY*
Time for a sit down – Gravity is very much in the vein of Yellowcard, minus the backflipping violin bloke.

6 *KEYS*
The most different-sounding track here – chilled-out, angsty intro, into fast-paced drums, into Taking Back Sunday vibes, with more killer double-vocal play. Adam Lazzara, eat your heart out!

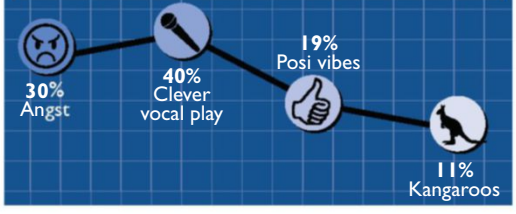
7 *LONG NIGHT*
The piano's out for this slowed-down ballad. Play while you sit and stare wistfully out of the window. Ideally when it's absolutely pissing with rain.

8 *DINNER BELL*
Not the signal for fish fingers, chips and beans, just more killer pop-punk. Sounds like Ocean Avenue-era Yellowcard, which fits in with the fish finger reference we just made pretty well.

9 *HIGHER*
'*Baby let me take you higher*', sings frontman Jayden Seeley, his vocals all smooth and rich like hot Nutella. Blow on it before listening.

10 *WATERFALL*
Ending on a chilled note, the Aussie pop-punks might not be able to deliver on their promise of better weather, but they sure delivered on the killer debut front. Who needs One Direction anyways?

THIS ALBUM IS MOSTLY MADE UP OF...



WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER

VINNIE CARUANA

SURVIVOR'S GUILT *(BIG SCARY MONSTERS)*

KKKK

LONG ISLAND EMO LEGEND MAKES LEMONADE FROM LIFE'S LEMONS

VINNIE CARUANA has long been penning songs about friendship and heartbreak. Here, though, The Movielife and I Am The Avalanche frontman dwells on death and loss, reflecting on his own mortality throughout the entirety of this first solo full-length. Still, while there are plenty of grave moments in the enigmatic title-track and the haunting Angel Of The North, the hopefulness of songs like We Don't Have To Die Alone, Burn It Down and Roll Back To Me is what shines brightest. Musically, Survivor's Guilt sees the Long Island native progress confidently from 2013's City By The Sea EP, with a spirited, full-band offering. The beauty of this punk veteran's latest batch of songs is every bit as inevitable as the end that Vinnie sings about here.

DOWNLOAD: Burn It Down.
FOR FANS OF: The Xcerts, Bayside.
JESSICA BRIDGEMAN

SONIC BOOM SIX

THE F-BOMB *(CHERRY RED)*

KK

BRITISH FUSION-PUNKS RUN OUT OF NEW IDEAS ON ALBUM NUMBER FIVE

BACK IN the mid-2000s, Manchester's Sonic Boom Six added their bag of pick'n'mix influences – reggae, hip-hop and grime – to the UK ska-punk party. Four years since their last effort, the 'F' in F-Bomb could stand for 'faltering': they're drifting into sounding dated. Too many on-the-nose, achingly right-on lyrics don't help – The King Blues and Enter Shikari have long-since done this sort of thing with bigger tunes and without making you wince. The end result is a couple of bright spots, but no surprises. They're preaching to the choir, and these are mostly songs that should explode never managing to spark into life. Boom and bust.

DOWNLOAD: Drop The Bass (And Pick It Up), Worship Yourself.
FOR FANS OF: The King Blues, Enter Shikari, Capdown.
ALISTAIR LAWRENCE

FOUR BY FATE

RELENTLESS *(AMAZING RECORD CO)*

KKK

OLD-SCHOOL INDUSTRY SUPERGROUP ROCK'N'ROLL BACK THE YEARS WITH STYLE

WHILE THE term 'supergroup' may get bandied about a lot these days, it's hard to begrudge a line-up of session types that have shared stages and writing credits with legends like Peter Frampton, David Bowie and Mick Jagger. Not only that, but for their debut album, Relentless, the old-timers – that's John Regan, Tod Howarth, Rob Affuso and Patrick James Gasperini to their mums – have had contributions from fellow rockers, including what are thought to be the last recordings from Twisted Sister's late A. J. Pero on drums. Given their classic backgrounds, the collective's direction of scandalous rock seared open by Tod's desperate caterwauls, paired with more solos than a Star Wars convention, may come as a surprise to few, but there's a ripe sweetness behind every grubby lick that'll have you glad fate brought these four together.

DOWNLOAD: Moonshine.
FOR FANS OF: Cheap Trick, Frehley's Comet, Twisted Sister.
TOM SHEPHERD

LYRIC OF THE WEEK

'I didn't want the captain's role / But I'll steer us over highs and lows'. No, Simon Neil no longer wants to be the captain. Which is quite handy, really, because now, he tells us, he's *'A fuckin' animal'*. And you don't want a lion trying to sail a boat. Ever.

BAND: Biffy Clyro
SONG: Animal Style
ALBUM: Ellipsis

SLEEVE OF THE WEEK

That's a volcano on the cover of Gojira's new album, that is. Cunningly, it works on two levels. One: the album's called Magma, so it's a no-brainer. Two: Gojira have all the power of a volcanic eruption. Although that calming blue colour makes it seem like a nice volcano. Which isn't very metal.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

TRUE LOVE, CANE HILL

Rather than list 10 warnings about its content, it's easier to just say that Cane Hill's new clip should only be watched by people who love video nasties. And if that's not an advert, what is?

GATES

PARALLEL LIVES *(PURE NOISE)*

KKKK

U.S. POST-ROCKERS TAKE A LOOK AROUND ON ALBUM NUMBER TWO

EVER EARWIG on a conversation on the bus and wonder who 'Geoff from IT' is and what it was he said to Sarah that was so outrageous? Gates' Kevin Dye did. Well, not specifically about Geoff from IT, but he was so inspired by the questions left unanswered, the stories left unfinished, the lives he knew he'd never be involved in from overhearing a passing conversation that he penned Parallel Lives. Gates' second album takes walks past apartments full of people and boring subway rides to work in New York filled with 'Who?'s, 'What?'s and 'Why?'s as lyrical inspiration – it's a world where *'All we seem to be are parallel lives caught crossing'*. Sounding like a Charlie Simpson-written soundtrack to an indie rom-com in parts (Habit), or like a school friend of Lonely The Brave in others (Shiver) – it's a beautiful record with an equally beautiful idea; an album to really make you think about the people and the world around you. It might even make you start a convo on the bus. Actually, don't do that in London, unless you like being grunted at.

DOWNLOAD: Shiver, Habit.
FOR FANS OF: Charlie Simpson, Lonely The Brave, Thrice.
RYAN COOPER

HIGH FIGHTER

SCARS & CROSSES *(SVART)*

KKKK

GERMAN STONER ROCKERS DESTROY YOUR EARS WITH SOME BIG-ASS RIFFS

FILLED WITH skull-crunching riffs and thunderously lumbering rhythms, Scars & Crosses is one of the heaviest debuts you're going to hear all year. Building on High Fighter's splendidly-titled The Goat Ritual EP, this has all the momentum of a mastodon stampede, but there's a lot more to it than just crushing weight. For a start, they have a collection of great songs, packed with atmosphere and more expert gear changes than an IndyCar race. Singer Mona Miluski adds a whole other element as well, ranging from an expressive blues-soaked wail to an Angela Gossow-style metallic rasp. Musically, they veer through different styles, from sludge to stoner to blues, but it's all delivered with style, skill and unavoidable heft.

DOWNLOAD: The Gatekeeper.
FOR FANS OF: Blues Pills, Kyuss.
PAUL TRAVERS

BIG DEAL

SAY YES *(FATCAT)*

KK

LOVELORN ROCK THAT SPARKLES WITH A JUST A TOUCH OF FOOL'S GOLD

'I WON'T tell you everything works out right', sings Alice Costelloe at the heart of this album's title-track. That sums up the demeanour of Big Deal's third offering, which tiptoes interestingly over the borderline between indie-pop and rock. Occasionally it's brilliant – as on the thumpy disco electronics of V.I.T.R.I.O.L and the sweetly memorable Hold Your Fire. Sadly, an equal amount of it flounders in a haze of boring shoegaze. While Big Deal's two protagonists – Alice and Kacey Underwood – confront personal emotions with daring openness, it's hard to enthuse about something that often simply wallows. It's a love letter to past times – one you might decide is none of your business.

DOWNLOAD: V.I.T.R.I.O.L.
FOR FANS OF: Wolf Alice, Pixies.
STEVE BEEBEE

CONSIDERING THE fact that it begins with the author reliving the very moment his pancreas exploded – leaving him bent double on the floor, third-degree burns ravaging his *insides* – it's little surprise that Duff McKagan's autobiography stands head and shoulders above those released by his Guns N' Roses bandmates, both past and present. Yet for those that find the depictions of alcohol and substance abuse contained within It's So Easy (And Other Lies) – first published in 2011 – just not quite vivid enough, well, there's now a movie version of it, too. Filmed in front of a live audience in the bassist's hometown of Seattle, **IT'S SO EASY (AND OTHER LIES) (KKKK)** the

ON THE STEREO

1 TWIN ATLANTIC – GOLD ELEPHANT :: CHERRY ALLIGATOR
Ooh, a big, dirty riff. No idea what any of TA's comeback song's title means, but anything with *two* colons has to be a winner, right? Right.

2 HELLIONS – QUALITY OF LIFE
You already know that Hellions rule. Well, that was before. You don't know how much their new stuff rules yet. It rules.

3 LACUNA COIL – GHOST IN THE MIST
A goth-metal song about a bad, supernatural cricket batsman who never hits the ball. Maybe.

4 TRASH BOAT – STRANGERS
Oh hi, Trash Boat. Big, punk banger, you say? Awesome. Thanks.

5 BLUES PILLS – LADY IN GOLD
Satan himself doesn't possess enough soul to match this.

WACO

UPRISE *(VENN)*

KKK

WEIRD COSMIC PUNKS TRY AND GIVE YOU A BIT OF HOPE ON IMPRESSIVE EP

SOME RECORDS hit you right in the feels like a ton of bricks. Some transport you somewhere ethereal. WACO's second EP, Uprise, meanwhile, simply fills you with the urge to shout your heart out at a grubby club with your mates – "Hopeful music for hopeless people" is the quartet's raison d'être. Whether you're scraping together pennies for that days-before-payday lunch or you've just broken up with the person of your dreams, your enjoyment of the Rancid-brought-up-on-a-council-estate 'cosmic punk' won't be affected in the slightest. All five tracks here are loud and in-your-face, SE17's postcode-resembling name being apt, as it takes residence in the nooks and crannies of your brain. Hopeless, they aren't.

DOWNLOAD: Nancy Guntrip, SE17.
FOR FANS OF: Rancid, The King Blues.

RYAN COOPER

GARBAGE

STRANGE LITTLE BIRDS *(STUNVOLUME)*

KKKK

SHIRLEY MANSON RETURNS, WITH MORE DARK MYSTERY THAN EVER BEFORE

GARBAGE ARE back. But this time, they are no longer leaders in a field of one. Previously, their ethereal, electro-rock was a few steps away from anyone else – too well-produced and sprinkled with glitter to stand alongside grunge in the '90s, not twangy enough for '00s indie. But their sixth album finds them stepping into a world where bands like PVRIS have started to occupy a similar space to Shirley Manson and co. It's only made Garbage themselves better. Songs like Empty shimmy along on a digital pulse, being both seedy and sweeping at the same time. Shirley's vocals prove she's still the queen of goth/pop/whatever, while drummer/producer Butch Vig (you know, who produced Nirvana and Foo Fighters) captures all the seductive darkness perfectly. They're not the strangest little birds on the block any more, but Garbage still rule.

DOWNLOAD: Empty, Blackout.
FOR FANS OF: PVRIS, The Black Queen.

NICK RUSKELL

DVD brings It's So Easy the book into startling perspective, as Duff reads highlighted chapters of his tale set to a soundtrack of his life's music performed by his Loaded bandmates, Pearl Jam's Mike McCready and an orchestra. The likes of Slash, Nikki Sixx and Matt Sorum lend their weight (and credence) to the otherwise often unbelievable tales of rock excess as talking heads, while archive footage and photos illustrate events, but it's in Duff's own heartfelt words that the power of this tale of redemption lays. Just make sure you don't have popcorn salt on your hands when you're subtly wiping away a tear or two as the curtain comes down with a rendition of GN'R's Patience.

WORDS: SAM COARE

King Diamond
ABIGAIL (ROADRUNNER, 1987)

THE GREATEST METAL HORROR STORY EVER TOLD. HELL, EVEN MYSTERIOUS FORCES WANTED TO GET INVOLVED…

PRIOR TO King Diamond's emergence, heavy metal only had dalliances with the Devil. Black Sabbath may have sung how '*Satan's coming 'round the bend*' on their signature tune, but it was a cautionary tale about *not* messing with dark forces, and much of their dark image was born of a love of Hammer horror, thinking it'd give them an edge over other bands. But as the '80s arrived, so too did King, and with it a much more serious approach to the dark side. First with Danish metallers Mercyful Fate, and then with his own solo band; the face-painted wailer was an admitted follower of the Church Of Satan, who carried around a skeleton named Melissa to use as a mic stand, and gave the impression of being a genuine magician.

After two albums with Mercyful Fate, King struck out on his own, and it was here that he revealed himself to be a master storyteller, basically becoming heavy metal's answer to Stephen King. On second album Abigail, he created a spine-chilling gothic horror tale full of infanticide, possession and dark family secrets.

The music was suitably dramatic, with atmospheric interludes and layered melodies tempering the metallic bite. And then there was the extraordinary vocal performance of KD himself, lurching from demonic growl to improbably high-pitched screams in the blink of a heavily-corpse-painted eye. It's a masterpiece of an album, which is why it's going to be disinterred to be played live in all its dark glory at London's O2 Forum Kentish Town on June 21.

WHERE DID THE STORY FOR ABIGAIL COME FROM?

KING DIAMOND (*VOCALS*): "I woke up during a thunderstorm in my haunted apartment in Copenhagen and I had this story in my head. I didn't dare to go back to sleep in case I forgot, so I made a big pot of coffee and started writing it all down. It was also influenced by my own family history. My mom told me how she was literally left on someone's doorstep, and she later found out she was the child of a professor's son. He got my grandmother pregnant and she was sent away to have this bastard child. That was all sort of wound into this story."

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE RECORDING PROCESS?

"When you had a lot of tracks and as many layers as this album needed, it got pretty complicated! In those days, producers didn't want musicians hanging over their shoulders, but the whole band had to get involved."

DID ANYTHING WEIRD HAPPEN DURING THE SESSIONS?

"There's a vocal part on The Family Ghost that I never recorded! It's a part that goes [adopts bestial growl], '*Ohhh damn*', and we couldn't find it on any of the recording tracks anywhere. It fits alright, though. It's not perfect, but it's part of the song now. I have no clue what it was, but it's certainly not the only weird or even seemingly impossible thing to happen to us."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE ALBUM LOOKING BACK?

"I've been completely immersed in this album again because of the live shows, and I think it's a great album. Making the full concept album was something I always dreamed of doing but the format wasn't quite right with Mercyful Fate. We've been talking about how the next album has got to be Abigail-style. That feel, that sound… it's something that we're really looking to revisit."

Kerrang! Radio play it all at 10pm, June 9!

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS

"THERE ARE VOCALS ON THERE THAT JUST… APPEARED"
KING DIAMOND

K!LOBBER

MU$T HAV£S

ALL THE BEST GEAR FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF PLANET ROCK AND BEYOND!

Inspired by the work of artist M. C. Escher – and, of course, the Adventure Time gang – this gravity-defying T-shirt is a vertigo-inducing piece of awesome.
£15.99 Grindstore.com

As well as being a cool name for a band, Neck Deep is surely the perfect moniker for a T-shirt retailer?
£14.99 Grindstore.com

What do you do when someone tells you to 'Go eat a bag of dicks'? You grab these, that's what!
$3 (£2.07) Stupididiotic.com

Every Time I Die's Jordan Buckley captures Captain America and Iron Man resolving their recent differences.
$24 (£16.60) Jbww69.myshopify.com

Not sure what links blink-182 and a rabbit flippin' the bird, but this badge is cool, nevertheless.
$2.94 (£2.03) blink182merch.com

What better way to illustrate the beauty and brutality of Deftones' music than a rose-covered skull?
£14.99 Emp-online.co.uk

These are the polar (geddit?) opposite of traditional, boring slippers; inspired by that most comfortable but elusive of beasts, the Yeti. And not only do they make you look like an old hobbit in need of seeing a chiropodist, they're heated, too!
£34.99 Firebox.com

Fans of both twenty one pilots and ukuleles should prepare for hysteria. There are only 4,000 available, so don't delay!
$125 (£86.53) Store.twentyonepilots.com

Here's an air freshener with a Mexican feel. Make your house Day-of-the-Dead-nice-smelling in no time.
£1.49 Grindstore.com

This is one Disgusting Beartooth shirt. No, seriously, that's quite literally what it is!
£14.99 Impericon.com

This Jaws-inspired Amity Affliction shirt might make people suggest, "You're going to need a bigger shirt."
£14.99 Impericon.com

Donald Trump is running for U.S. President, so why shouldn't Dave Mustaine? He, too, says odd things and has fascinating hair.
£17 Megadeth.shop.livenation.com

This is the Blasphemy Incense Burner. We're not sure how incense can be blasphemous; unless you burn your hand on one of the lit sticks and shout 'Jesus Christ'. Now *that's* blasphemous!
£5 Dropdead.co

According to this Simple Plan design, 'Everything Sucks'. Not sure if that includes T-shirts, too…
$16.72 (£11.58) Hottopic.com

Do you like blood? Do you like flasks? Well, then, you'll love this bloody flask.
£3.99 Grindstore.com

The comedians out there might suggest that this emoji-style portable phone charger is, well, a little shit. Well, you'd be wrong; the design is actually a 'Poop', so that told you, didn't it?
£34.99 Firebox.com

Attach this patch to your jacket and people won't ask you your name when you're ordering a coffee at Starbucks – not because they'll assume it's 'Negative Creep', but because they'll be too scared to.
£3.99 Grindstore.com

RAINING MUD

IT'S PRETTY MUCH GUARANTEED TO PISS DOWN AT DOWNLOAD THIS WEEKEND, SO KEEP DRY IN STYLE…

With all those festival lights shining, it's unlikely you'll see many stars above Donington. It would therefore be advisable to bring your own, courtesy of this LED lovely.
£25.61
Ebay.com

Rain protection doesn't get more Marvel-ous than this action-packed accessory. It's doubly useful, too, because even when you're not using it, you've got something to read.
£11.99
Truffleshuffle.co.uk

Feel like a noble Japanese warrior as you march through your campsite with this sleek piece of samurai kit. Get six mates to get one, too, for the full Kurosawa effect.
£13.27
Amazon.co.uk

Adapting the principle of fighting fire with fire, what better way to counter the effects of it raining cats and dogs than with a canine/feline-themed umbrella.
£26.95
Brollied.com

What's rich in potassium and protects you from downpours? Okay, while this isn't actually edible, this fruity little number will keep you as dry as, well, a dried banana.
£14.99
Firebox.com

A brolly as enchanting as the mythical beast that inspired it, this multicoloured marvel sports a unicorn bust handle and a polished horn tip. Would go nicely with the Yeti slippers.
£19.99
Firebox.com

DON'T MISS

BEACH SLANG

THE INDIE-PUNKS ARE BRINGING THEIR SHIRTS AND SWEATERS BACK INTO FASHION ON THEIR BIGGEST UK TOUR TO DATE…

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: TOM MARTIN

HEY, JAMES! JUST HOW AWESOME HAS 2016 BEEN FOR BEACH SLANG SO FAR?

JAMES ALEX (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "It's been pretty wildly awesome! And now we're getting to come back to the UK for our biggest tour yet. I don't want to pander, but you guys have been really embracing of us and what we do, and it feels like home when we're over."

WHAT SHOULD SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER BEEN TO A BEACH SLANG SHOW EXPECT WHEN THEY COME TO SEE YOU?

"*All* of it. It's a big, honest, sweaty mess of a show. It's loud, there'll be bloodied fingers, big hugs and mystery bruises the next morning. We don't adhere to a script, and a set list is a loose suggestion to us; we go with how we're feeling in the moment."

YOU'RE BRINGING WEAVES AND MUNCIE GIRLS OUT WITH YOU – SHOULD PEOPLE BE GETTING DOWN EARLY FOR THEM?

"Oh, they absolutely should – both of those bands are brilliant! On our first UK tour, Dean McMullen of Muncie Girls was our driver and tour manager, so he's family to us, and we're beyond thrilled to be on that run with them."

YOU ALWAYS WEAR A SMART-LOOKING ENSEMBLE WHEN YOU PLAY LIVE, WITH THE SHIRTS, TIES AND SWEATER VESTS – IS IT IMPORTANT TO DRESS TO IMPRESS?

"Yeah, definitely. The first record I ever got was an AC/DC record, so seeing Angus Young dressed in his school uniform had an impact on me, and then I became a fan of mod culture, and that always looked so right on! For me, it's kind of like when Clark Kent changes out of the suit and into Superman – when I put that on I'm *ready*!"

> ***"THERE'LL BE BLOODY FINGERS AND MYSTERY BRUISES!"***
> **JAMES ALEX**

TALKING OF SUPERMAN, DOES IT FEEL SUPER TO BE NOMINATED FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL NEWCOMER AT THIS YEAR'S KERRANG! AWARDS?

"It's so humbling and it's knocked our socks off. I know this sounds geeky, but we literally rerouted our tour so we could come to the awards! We rescheduled the show we had on that day, because there's no way we couldn't come and be a part of something that we're actually invited to! It's a huge, gigantic reaffirmation that we really are liked over there, and that just feels incredible."

AND WILL YOU BE THE BEST-DRESSED MAN IN ATTENDANCE ON THE NIGHT?

"I'm gonna go for it! We've actually talked about it as a band, and how we could take things up a notch, and I won't give anything away yet, but everyone else should consider this me throwing the gauntlet down (*laughs*)!"

FINALLY, WHEN CAN WE EXPECT A FOLLOW-UP TO THE THINGS WE DO TO FIND PEOPLE WHO FEEL LIKE US?

"It's done and comes out in September! I wrote the thing on the last European tour, and when we came back we had a two-week window, so I taught it to the guys in one week."

DATES: London Camden Dingwalls 8, Edinburgh Electric Circus 10, Liverpool Arts Club 11, Manchester Deaf Institute 12, Nottingham Bodega 13, Cardiff Globe 14, Cambridge Portland Arms 15. Support: Muncie Girls, Weaves.

YOUR WEEK!

Shirley Manson unleashing her inner-Melisandre – watch out, Westeros…

KERRANG! DAY *JUNE 8*

BRISTOL Escape The Fate, FVK, Heaven Asunder (Thekla)
BRISTOL Petrol Girls, Joliette (Exchange)
CARDIFF Brawlers, Black Hole (Clwb Ifor Bach)
LONDON Beach Slang, Muncie Girls, Weaves (Dingwalls, Camden)
SWANSEA Norma Jean (Scene)

THURSDAY *JUNE 9*

BIRMINGHAM Beach Slang, Weave, Muncie Girls (Sunflower Lounge)
CARDIFF Alien Ant Farm, The Dirty Youth, Eva Plays Dead (Glob)
LONDON A Day To Remember, Asking Alexandria (The Kerrang! Awards 2016 @ Troxy)
LONDON Titus Andronicus (Tufnell Park, Dome)
MANCHESTER AC/DC (Etihad Stadium)
SOUTHAMPTON Escape The Fate, FVK, These Days Are Numbered (Engine Rooms)

FRIDAY *JUNE 10*

EDINBURGH Beach Slang, Muncie Girls, Weaves (Electric Circus)
DERBY Rammstein, Korn, All Time Low, Killswitch Engage, BABYMETAL, Alien Ant Farm, Royal Republic, Twin Atlantic, Glassjaw, The Amity Affliction, Skillet, Graveyard, As Lions, Raveneye, Gutterdämmerung, The Wildhearts, Kadavar, Fort Hope, HECK, ZOAX, Puppy, Hill Valley High, Raging Speedhorn, InMe, Savage Messiah, Skinny Lister, From Ashes To New, Counting Days, Havok, Strange Bones, The Amorettes, In Search Of Sun, Weirds (Download Festival @ Donington Park)
LIVERPOOL Allusondrugs, Fizzy Blood (Magnet)
NORWICH Escape The Fate (Waterfront)
PLYMOUTH Petrol Girls (Junction)

SATURDAY *JUNE 11*

BRIGHTON Petrol Girls (Prince Albert)
DERBY Black Sabbath, Deftones, NOFX, Megadeth, Rival Sons, Sixx:A.M., Atreyu, Beartooth, Avatar, Skindred, Architects, Juliette And The Licks, Bury Tomorrow, TesseracT, Scorpion Child, The Men That Will Not Be Blamed For Nothing, Inglorious, Santa Cruz, Pennywise, Neck Deep, Anti-Flag, Escape The Fate, Lawnmower Deth, Danko Jones, Turbowolf, Black Peaks, SHVPES, Moses, Municipal Waste, The Shrine, Cane Hill, Slaves (US), Dead!, Milk Teeth, Wage War, Palisades, Reigning Days, Wearing Scars, Scattering Ashes (Download Festival @ Donington Park)
LIVERPOOL Beach Slang, Muncie Girls, Weaves (Arts Club)

SUNDAY *JUNE 12*

DERBY Iron Maiden, Nightwish, Disturbed, Jane's Addiction, Billy Talent, Shinedown, Halestorm, The Temperance Movement, Amon Amarth, Monster Truck, Don Broco, Breaking Benjamin, ONE OK ROCK, Periphery, Delain, Grand Magus, Whiskey Myers, Buck & Evans, Saxon, Ghost, Gojira, Electric Wizard, Tremonti, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Attila, The Dirty Youth, The Raven Age, Wild Liers, Napalm Death, Ho99o9, Good Tiger, Ashestoangels, Black Foxxes, Kenneths, Muncie Girls, The King Is Blind, Witchsorrow, Vukovi, The Franklys (Download Festival @ Donington Park)
MANCHESTER Beach Slang, Muncie Girls, Weaves (Deaf Institute)
NEWPORT Queen + Adam Lambert, Twin Atlantic, Sixx:A.M. (Isle Of Wight Festival @ Seaclose Park)

RIDER OF THE WEEK

BAND: Foo Fighters

There's nothing like finishing your set, going backstage and building the toys you get from the inside of a Kinder Surprise…

FOO FIGHTERS

6 x packs of Marlboro Red cigarettes
4 x pairs of white tube socks, size 10 – 13
4 x pairs of medium boxer shorts
36 x 1-litre bottles of Volvic water
2 x bottles of chilled mineral water
1 x case of assorted sodas (Coca-Cola, 7 Up, Dr Pepper)
1 gallon of orange juice
12 x cans of cranberry beverages
12 x bottles of Snapple
12 x bottles of micro-brewery beer
24 x bottles of Coors Light
12 x cans of Victoria Bitter
6 x cans of Boddingtons
12 x bottles of Beck's
24 x bottles of Gatorade
2 x bottles of red wine
Bottle openers and cork screws
Hot coffee
1 x bowl of fruit (bananas, apples, oranges etc.)
Fresh vegetable tray with hummus
Juice machine
1 x box of cereal (Honeycomb, Lucky Charms, Fruit Loops)
Half a gallon of low-fat milk
Sliced turkey
Sliced prosciutto ham
1 x pack of vegetarian meat
4 x Kinder Surprises
Sliced bread

CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/EARS BUSY

PANIC! AT THE DISCO – THE EVOLUTION

KERRANG! TV – JUNE 11, *8:30PM*

What's funnier than Brendon Urie parading down the street in some longjohns? Perhaps The Bachelor dancing around like a demon in Emperor's New Clothes?! Either way, it's all Pretty Odd…

TWENTY ONE PILOTS LIVE FROM RADIO 1'S BIG WEEKEND

BBC iPLAYER

Want to see how twenty one pilots do festivals? Well, they played Radio 1's Big Weekend in Exeter and they got their set cut short – apparently Tyler Joseph isn't allowed to climb the stage during the end of Car Radio. Naughty TØP.

OFFICIAL! THE 50 BEST POP-PUNK SONGS EVER

KERRANG! TV – JUNE 12, *10AM*

What better way to spend your Sunday morning than with a nice dose of pop-punk?! Get your favourite pizza delivery on speed dial! However, we're not sure eating pizza that early in the morning is a good idea, unless you're hungover. Always get hungover pizza…

MONDAY *JUNE 13*

NORWICH Petrol Girls (Owl Sanctuary)
LONDON Jane's Addiction (O2 Kentish Town Forum)
NOTTINGHAM Beach Slang, Muncie Girls, Weaves (Bodega)
LONDON Garbage (Troxy)

TUESDAY *JUNE 14*

CARDIFF Beach Slang, Muncie Girls, Weaves (Globe)
GLASGOW Petrol Girls (Bar Bloc)
HUDDERSFIELD Norma Jean (Parish)
NOTTINGHAM Garbage, The Pearl Harts (Rock City)

MY FIRST GIG

WHO: MxPx, WALDORF, MARYLAND, 1997

THE MADDEN BROTHERS HAVE THAT SPECIAL TWIN BOND. THEY EVEN WENT TO THE SAME GIG TOGETHER AS TEENAGERS…

JOEL MADDEN, GOOD CHARLOTTE

"The first gig I ever went to was MxPx. They were playing this little place in my hometown of Waldorf, Maryland. The show was in this club that just had the occasional band playing every once in a while.

"It was a pretty random selection of bands, but I saw that MxPx were playing a gig in there. It was around the time of their Life In General album, which I had just bought – I absolutely loved that record. At the time, I was really into that energetic kind of pop-punk and, for me, MxPx were one of the big ones.

"So, I went down to see the band live and it was awesome. It was right around the time when I was really getting into music and we were starting to get Good Charlotte off the ground. I went with my brother Benji [Good Charlotte], and it was a big deal for both of us.

"I remember how into it we were. I was in my teens and I was in the pit, singing along and crowd-surfing. I remember jumping off the stage and doing all that stuff you do at shows. That was the first time I'd ever experienced any kind of live show, and I definitely caught the bug straight away."

GENERAL ADMISSION

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

SPOTLIGHT ON...

HUDDERSFIELD

THE NORTHERN MARKET TOWN WITH A BANGING ROCK SCENE...

MIKEY SHIRAZ (PROMOTER), THE PARISH

WHAT ARE YOUR FIRST MEMORIES OF THE MUSIC SCENE IN HUDDERSFIELD?

"When I first started going out in **Huddersfield**, it was because my buddy Kerry was in a band – I was thrown head-first into the scene. We have always been pretty lucky round here, and even though the venues and names have changed, the scene has always thrived regardless. I was amazed at how welcoming the people were here, too."

AND IS THE MUSIC SCENE IN 2016 JUST AS STRONG AS IT WAS BACK THEN?

"It's currently at an all-time high! It's great to see so many killer bands out there. We have bands like **Swimming With Sharks**, **Evile**, of course, **Tropical Contact**, **Relics**, **Aneurysm** and **The Chokes**. There's just so many different genres; be it metal, punk, hardcore, rock, ska or post-rock, this town has it all. We're also situated in a great area: perfectly between Leeds and Manchester. We're their loud little brother!"

WHAT ARE THE KEY VENUES IN THE TOWN, AND WHY ARE THEY SO GREAT?

"Well, of course **The Parish** – which is currently celebrating its 10th year – is just plain badass! I may be a little biased, but I truly feel we have one of the best venues in the UK right here. It has great sound, amazing facilities and accommodation for touring bands. Also, the food is banging! We may be a small venue, but it is not the size of the boat, it's the motion of the ocean. We also have the **Holmfirth Picturedrome** which is this big, beautiful old building in town. It also gets a great choice of acts."

FOR BANDS AND ROCK FANS, WHAT ELSE IS ON OFFER IN THE LOCAL AREA?

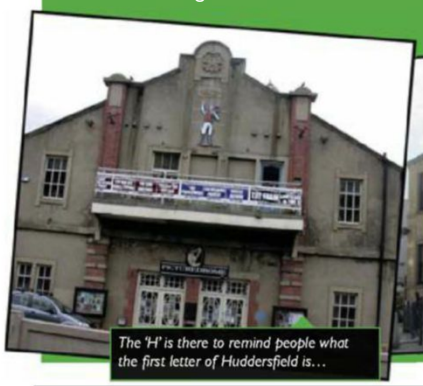
"**GN Studios** is a wicked place to record and practice. Then there's **Vinyl Tap**, which is the best record shop going – they've got such a great selection. They also do the odd gig, which is cool. **Arcade Beers**, **BlueRooms**, **Vox** and **Zephyr** are all great places to go for a cheeky few beers or cocktails. Also, **The Camel Club** has a good rock night on Fridays."

CAN YOU TELL US THE BEST SHOW YOU'VE PUT ON?

"That is a hard one, there has been so many. Probably the first time **The Bronx** played – the vibe was just amazing. Everyone was smiling, everyone was sweating and there was this perfect connection between the band and the audience. It has embedded itself in my soul for evermore. It was just perfect! I adore that band and we have been lucky enough to have them a few times now. **Cancer Bats** was nuts, **While She Sleeps** sold out super-quick, **SikTh** was just mind-blowing and **HECK**, as always, take it to new levels of insane. Just wait and see what we have coming next!"

FINALLY, DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR BANDS IN TOWN?

"Get out there and gig! It's why you start a band in the first place and there is nothing better in the world than being out there playing live with your buddies. Oh, also, leave your ego at the front door, and always respect the soundman."



The 'H' is there to remind people what the first letter of Huddersfield is...

The venue where you'll get baptised in unholy amounts of gig sweat

BOOKING NOW

2000TREES
Line-up: Twin Atlantic, Refused, Moose Blood, WSTR, While She Sleeps, Palm Reader, Neck Deep, The King Blues, The Bronx, Basement, Lonely The Brave, HECK, Mallory Knox, The Xcerts, Arcane Roots, Counterfeit, Dinosaur Pile-Up, Creeper, ZOAX, Reigning Days, Dave McPherson, SikTh, Jamie Lenman and more! Cheltenham Upcote Farm July 7 – 9.

3 DOORS DOWN
O2 Academy Bristol November 2, O2 Academy Birmingham 3, Manchester Academy 5, London Eventim Apollo 6. Support: Pop Evil.

AGAINST THE CURRENT
Bristol Fleece September 21, Glasgow Garage 22, Newcastle Riverside 23, Leeds Stylus 24, Belfast Mandela Hall 26, Dublin Academy 27, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 28, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 30, Birmingham Asylum October 1, Manchester Academy II 2.

ALICE COOPER
Stone Free Festival @ London O2 Arena June 18 – 19.

ALL THEM WITCHES
Bristol Thekla October 2, Manchester Deaf Institute 3, London Scala 4, Brighton Haunt 6, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 7, Glasgow Classic Grand 8, Nottingham Bodega 9.

APOCALYPTICA
Manchester Bridgewater Hall February 27, 2017, Edinburgh Queens Hall 28, London Royal Festival Hall March 1.

ARCH ENEMY
Norwich Waterfront August 21, Sheffield Corporation 22, Cardiff TramShed 23, Southampton Engine Rooms 24. Support: Soilwork.

ARCHITECTS
O2 Institute Birmingham November 11, Manchester Academy 12, O2 ABC Glasgow 13, Nottingham Rock City 15, O2 Academy Bristol 17, London O2 Academy Brixton 18.

BAND OF SKULLS
Leeds Stylus October 20, Manchester Albert Hall 21, Newcastle Northumbria University 22, London Camden Roundhouse 26, Southampton Engine Rooms November 17.

BASEMENT
Newcastle Riverside July 12, Carlisle Brickyard 13, Cardiff Globe 14, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 15, Southend Chinnery's 18, Brighton Haunt 19, Tunbridge Wells Forum 20, Southampton 1865 21, Plymouth Hub 22. Support: Dinosaur Pile-Up, The Sun Days.

BEACH SLANG
Cambridge Portland Arms June 15. Support: Weaves, Muncie Girls.

BEING AS AN OCEAN
Plymouth Hub June 21, Bridgend Hobos 22, Kingston Fighting Cocks 23.

BESTIVAL
Line-up: Creeper, Fatherson, K.Flay, Milk Teeth, Moose Blood, Pretty Vicious, PUP. Isle Of Wight Robin Hill Country Park September 8 – 11.

BETTER NOISE RECORDS PRESENTS
Line-up: As Lions, From Ashes To New, Anavae. London Upstairs @ Garage June 8.

BIFFY CLYRO
Glasgow Bellahouston Park August 27. Support: Fall Out Boy, Wolf Alice, Cage The Elephant.

BILLY TALENT
Norwich UEA October 12, O2 Academy Bristol 13, Manchester Academy 15, O2 ABC Glasgow 16, O2 Academy Newcastle 17, O2 Institute Birmingham 19, O2 Academy Leeds 20, Nottingham Rock City 22, London Camden Roundhouse 23, Cardiff TramShed 24, O2 Guildhall Southampton 26.

BLOODSTOCK FESTIVAL
Line-up: Slayer, Mastodon, Twisted Sister, Venom, Behemoth, DragonForce, Paradise Lost, Rotting Christ, Anthrax, Gojira, Satyricon, Fear Factory, Symphony X, Metal Allegiance, Corrosion Of Conformity, Unearth, Ghost Bath, Evil Scarecrow, Witchsorrow, Akercocke, Desert Storm and more! Derbyshire Catton Park August 11 – 14.

BLUES PILLS
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms November 1, Glasgow Classic Grand 2, Manchester Club Academy 5, London Camden KOKO 6, Bristol Marble Factory 8.

THE BOUNCING SOULS
Huddersfield Parish August 2, Glasgow Stereo 3, Bristol Exchange 5, London Camden Underworld 6, Kingston Fighting Cocks 7. Support: Pear.

BRING ME THE HORIZON
London O2 Arena October 31, Bournemouth BIC November 1, Nottingham Arena 2, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 4, London O2 Arena 5, Sheffield Arena 6, Manchester Arena 8, Glasgow SSE Hydro 9.

BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE
Newport Centre November 24, O2 Academy Newcastle 27, O2 Academy Glasgow 30, Manchester Academy December 3 – 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 6, London O2 Academy Brixton 9. Support: Killswitch Engage, Cane Hill.

BUTSERFEST
Line-up: Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!, FVK, Creeper, WSTR, Crooks, Ashestoangels and more! Petersfield Queen Elizabeth Country Park September 10.

COHEED & CAMBRIA
O2 ABC Glasgow August 22, O2 Ritz Manchester 23, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 24. Support: La Dispute, mewithoutYou.

COMBICHRIST / FILTER
London Heaven July 3. Support: Rabia Sorda.

DAMNATION FESTIVAL
Line-up: Enslaved, Nails, Ne Obliviscaris, Full Of Hell, Oceans Of Slumber. Leeds University Union November 5.

DANCE GAVIN DANCE
O2 Academy2 Oxford November 3, Brighton Haunt 4, O2 Institute3 Birmingham 5, Southampton Engine Rooms 6, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 8, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 9, Manchester Sound Control 10, Glasgow Garage 11, Leeds Key Club 12, Cardiff Globe 14, Bristol Fleece 15, London Camden Underworld 16.

DEAD KENNEDYS
O2 Academy Oxford October 12, London O2 Islington Academy 13 – 14.

DON BROCO
Manchester Gorilla July 24 – 25, Glasgow Oran Mor 26 – 27, Newcastle Riverside 29 – 30, O2 Institute Birmingham 31 – August 1, Leeds Key Club 3 – 4, Bedford Esquires 5 – 6, London O2 Islington Academy 8 – 9, Southampton Engine Rooms 10 – 11, Norwich Open 13 – 14, Bristol Marble Factory 15 – 16.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL
Line-up: Rammstein, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Korn, Megadeth, Disturbed, Nightwish, Deftones, The Amity Affliction, Counting Days, Gutterdämmerung, Havok, Killswitch Engage, Skillet, Twin Atlantic, Sixx:A.M., Fort Hope, Architects, Atreyu, Beartooth, Black Foxxes, Dead!, Milk Teeth, Neck Deep, Rival Sons, Skindred, TesseracT, Lawnmower Deth, Attila, Billy Talent, Breaking Benjamin, Delain, Don Broco, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Ghost, Gojira, Halestorm, Ho99o9, Saxon, Shinedown, Tremonti, All Time Low, Buck & Evans, Devil You Know, Glassjaw, Napalm Death, Pennywise, The Raven Age, Royal Republic, Scattering Ashes, Scorpion Child, The Shrine, The Temperance Movement, Weirds, The Wildhearts, Avatar, WWE NXT, Juliette & The Licks, Raging Speedhorn, The Men That Will Not Be Blamed For Nothing, Inglorious, Raveneye, Puppy, From Ashes To New, Skinny Lister, The Amorettes, In Search Of Sun, Man The Mighty, Wearing Scars, The Wild Lies, BABYMETAL, The Dirty Youth, The Franklys, InMe, Santa Cruz, Witchsorrow. Donington Park June 10 – 12.

ESCAPE THE FATE
Bristol Thekla June 8, Southampton Engine Rooms 9, Norwich Waterfront 10. Support: FVK.

EVAROSE
London Garage (Upstairs) July 8, Oxford Bullingdon 9.

EXPIRE
Glasgow Audio June 15, Birmingham Rainbow 16, London Boston Music Rooms 17. Support: Cross Me, Renounced.

THE FALL OF TROY
Nottingham Rescue Rooms September 9, Leeds

Key Club 10, Glasgow Cathouse 11, Newcastle Think Tank? 13, London Scala 14, Bristol Fleece 15, Manchester Sound Control 16, Birmingham Asylum 17. Support: Tiny Moving Parts.

FIDLAR
London Brixton Electric July 12.

FIREBALL – FUELLING THE FIRE TOUR
Line-up: Less Than Jake, The Skints, Mariachi El Bronx, Kemuri (3 – 6), The Bennies (8 – 11). O2 Academy Bristol October 3, O2 Academy Sheffield 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 5, London O2 Academy Brixton 6, O2 Academy Newcastle 8, O2 Academy Glasgow 9, O2 Ritz Manchester 10, O2 Academy Bournemouth 11.

FIZZY BLOOD / ALLUSONDRUGS
Newport Le Pub June 8, Cheltenham Frog & Fiddle 9, Liverpool Magnet 10.

FORT FEST
Line-up: Lonely The Brave, InMe, The Dirty Youth, The Treatment, Grumble Bee, Bad Touch, Eva Plays Dead, Cheap Meat, Young Guns, Black Peaks, Arcane Roots, Adelphia, FOES, Autumn Ruin, Boston Manor, New Device, Fahran. Bedfordshire Thurleigh September 2 – 4.

GLASTONBURY
Line-Up: Muse, Bring Me The Horizon, ZZ Top, Wolf Alice and more! Somerset Worthy Farm June 24 – 26.

GOGOL BORDELLO
London Camden KOKO July 26 – 27.

ICED EARTH
London Brixton Electric December 6. Support: Ensiferum, Kataklysm, Unearth.

I KILLED THE PROM QUEEN
Glasgow Cathouse August 22, Birmingham Rainbow 23, Plymouth Hub 24, London Camden Dingwalls 25, Southampton Social 26. Support: The Browning, Feed Her To The Sharks, Empires Fade, To Kill Achilles.

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL
Line-up: Queen + Adam Lambert, Stereophonics, Twin Atlantic, Sixx:A.M. and more! Seaclose Park, Newport June 9 – 12.

KATATONIA
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire October 21.

KERRANG! AWARDS 2016
Line-up: A Day To Remember, Asking Alexandria. London Troxy June 9.

KILLING JOKE
London O2 Academy Brixton November 4.

KREATOR
Manchester Academy February 28, 2017, Dublin Vicar Street March 1, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 2. Support: Sepultura, Soilwork, Aborted.

METAL BREW
Line-up: Venom Inc, Diamond Head, Divine Chaos, Incredible Hog, Witchsorrow, Groan, Desert Storm, Dysteria, Landskap. London Barnet Rugby Football Club July 30.

MINISTRY
Cardiff TramShed August 16, O2 ABC Glasgow 17, O2 Institute Birmingham 18, O2 Ritz Manchester 19, London O2 Forum Kentish Town. Support: DevilDriver.

MOOSE BLOOD
O2 Institute2 Birmingham October 3, Glasgow Garage 4, O2 Academy2 Sheffield 5, CardiffY Plas 6, London Camden KOKO 7, Manchester Academy II 8. Support: Boston Manor, Turnover, Luca Brasi.

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK
O2 Ritz Manchester August 17, O2 Birmingham Institute2 18, London Camden KOKO 19.

MUNICIPAL WASTE
Glasgow Cathouse June 13, Newcastle Think Tank? 14, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 15, London Camden Underworld 16, Manchester Sound Control 17.

NAILS
Glasgow Cathouse November 4, Bristol Fleece 6, London Camden Underworld 7. Support: Full Of Hell.

NAPOLEON
Liverpool Arts Club Loft June 21, Worcester Marr's Bar 23, Exeter Cavern 24, Brighton Sticky Mikes 25, Basingstoke Sanctuary 26, Bournemouth Anvil August 1, Southampton Joiners 2, Margate West Coast Bar 3, London O2 Academy2 Islington 4, Northampton Black Prince 5, Doncaster Vintage Rock Bar 6, Leeds Key Club 7, Newcastle Central 8, Edinburgh Opium 9, Glasgow Classic Grand 10, Manchester Rebellion 11, Cheltenham Frog & Fiddle 12, Bristol Hatchet Inn 13, Plymouth Underground 14.

NASTY
Manchester Sound Control October 23, Glasgow G2 24, Birmingham Rainbow 25, London Camden Underworld 26. Support: Aversions Crown, Malevolence, Vitja, Sand.

NORMA JEAN
Swansea Scene June 8, Belfast Empire 10, Dublin Voodoo 11.

NORMANDIE
London Boston Music Rooms July 18, Cardiff Fuel 19, Manchester Retro Bar 20, Newcastle Head Of Steam 21, Nuneaton Queens Hall 22, Cheltenham Frog & Fiddle 23, Southampton Joiners 24. Support: Breathe In The Silence

THE OFFSPRING / BAD RELIGION
O2 Academy Birmingham June 19, O2 Academy Glasgow 20, London Eventim Apollo 22. Support: Templeton Pek.

OF MICE & MEN
O2 Academy Birmingham September 30, O2 Apollo Manchester October 1, Nottingham Rock City 3, O2 Academy Newcastle 4, O2 Academy Glasgow 5, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 7, Cardiff Great Hall 9.

PANIC! AT THE DISCO
O2 Apollo Manchester November 17, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 18, London Alexandra Palace 19 – 20.

PETROL GIRLS
Bristol Exchange June 8, Worcester Fly Bar 9, Plymouth Juntion 10, Brighton Prince Albert 11, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 12, Glasgow Bar Bloc 14, Newcastle Trillians 15, Huddersfield Parish 16, London DIY Space 17, Liverpool Social Centre 18, Manchester Sound Control 19.

PIERCE THE VEIL
Cardiff Great Hall November 25, O2 Academy Birmingham 26, London O2 Academy Brixton 27, Nottingham Rock City 29, O2 Academy Newcastle 30, Glasgow Barrowland December 1, Manchester Academy 2, Belfast Mandela Hall 4, Dublin Academy 5 – 6.

RAGING SPEEDHORN
Colchester Arts Centre July 15, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 16, Liverpool Arts Club Loft 17, O2 ABC2 Glasgow 18, Leeds Key Club 19, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 20, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 21, Oxford Wheatsheaf 22, London Camden Underworld 23. Support: Stoneghost, By Any Means.

READING & LEEDS FESTIVAL
Line-up: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Biffy Clyro, Fall Out Boy, twenty one pilots, Crossfaith, Eagles Of Death Metal, Lower Than Atlantis, Asking Alexandria, Five Finger Death Punch, Sleeping With Sirens, State Champs, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Creeper, Mastodon, Good Charlotte, Beach Slang, State Champs, Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls, Tonight Alive, Thrice, Hacktivist, Nothing More, Citizen, Superheaven, FVK, SWMRS, Nothing But Thieves, Coheed & Cambria, Skindred, Dillinger Escape Plan, Kvelertak, Milk Teeth, HECK, Dead!, Big Spring, The King Blues, Modern Baseball, ROAM, Waterparks, Brian Fallon and more! Reading Richfield Avenue and Leeds Bramham Park August 26 – 28.

REAL FRIENDS
London Camden Electric Ballroom December 9, Birmingham Asylum 10, Newcastle Riverside 11, Glasgow Sain Luke's 13, Manchester Club Academy 14, Leeds Stylus 15, Bristol Thekla 16, Southampton Engine Rooms 17. Support: Knuckle Puck, With Confidence.

REBELLION FESTIVAL
Line-up: Descendents, Flag, The Dickies, Bouncing Souls, The Dwarves, T.S.O.L, Peter & The Test Tube Babies, CJ Ramone, Abrasive Wheels, The Members, Off With Their Heads, Membranes, Gnarwolves, TV Smith & Friends, The Vibrators, Pears, Evil Blizzard. Winter Gardens and more! Blackpool August 4 – 7.

ROB ZOMBIE
London O2 Forum Kentish Town October 17.

RORY INDIANA
Leicester Pi Bar June 17, Southampton Alex 19, Plymouth Underground 20, Cheltenham Frog & Fiddle 21, Tunbridge Wells Forum 30.

ROUNDHOUSE PUNK WEEKENDER
Line-up: Youth Man, Birdsong, Bullybones, Drones, False Heads, Molasses, Mystified, Screech Bats, The Antiseptics, Thee Jezebels, The Vas Deferens. London Camden Roundhouse July 8 – 10.

SLEEP
London O2 Forum Kentish Town July 6.

THE SMITH STREET BAND
London Camden Underworld July 9, Kingston Fighting Cocks 10, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 12, Nottingham Bodega 13, Glasgow Audio 14, Manchester Soup Kitchen 15, Dublin Fibber Magees 16, Brighton Prince Albert 17. Support: Apologies, I Have None, Woahnows.

THE STRUTS
London Camden Dingwalls July 5, Bristol Thekla 6, Derby Venue 7.

TECH-FEST
Line-up: Protest The Hero, Between The Buried And Me and more! Newark Showground July 7 – 11.

THRICE
London Camden Electric Ballroom August 25.

THE WONDER YEARS
London Tufnell Park Dome July 28, Swansea Sin City 29, Leeds Key Club 30, Glasgow Stereo 31.

Y NOT FESTIVAL
Line-up: The Hives, Neck Deep, Creeper, Moose Blood, Lonely The Brave, Gnarwolves, HECK and more! Pikehall Derbyshire July 29 – 31.

PHOTO: GETTY

NOTHING BUT THIEVES

O2 Institute Birmingham November 30, Manchester Academy December 1, London O2 Academy Brixton 2.

JUST ANNOUNCED

BORN OF OSIRIS
Leeds Key Club September 11, Glasgow Classic Grand 12, Manchester Sound Control 13, Cardiff Globe 14, London O2 Academy Islington 15. Support: Veil Of Maya, Volumes, Black Crown Initiate.

BUTSERFEST
Latest additions: Mallory Knox, Young Guns, As It Is, Moose Blood.

EMMA BLACKERY
London O2 Academy2 Islington October 23, Manchester Sound Control 24, O2 ABC2 Glasgow 25, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 26.

LACUNA COIL
Bristol Marble Factory November 10, London Camden KOKO 11, O2 Institute2 Birmingham 13, Newcastle Riverside 14, Glasgow Garage 15, Manchester Academy 2 16, Southampton 1865 18.

LONELY THE BRAVE
Brighton Haunt October 3, Southend Chinnerys 4, London Camden Electric Ballroom 6, Bristol Marble Factory 7, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 10, Glasgow King Tut's 11, O2 Academy2 Leicester 14, Leeds Key Club 15, O2 Academy2 Oxford 18, Hull Welly 19, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 21. Support: Tall Ships.

MESHUGGAH
O2 Academy2 Bristol January 12, 2017, O2 Institute Birmingham 10, Nottingham Rock City 14, O2 ABC Glasgow 15, Belfast Limelight 17, Dublin Academy 10, O2 Ritz Manchester 19, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 20.

PUP
Birmingham Rainbow Courtyard August 30, Bristol Exchange September 1, Manchester Sound Control 4, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 5, Nottingham Bodega 7, London Dome Tufnell Park 9.

RED FANG
Brighton Concorde2 September 26, London Camden KOKO 27, Bristol Bierkeller 28, Leeds Stylus 29, Manchester Academy II 30, O2 Institute2 Birmingham October 2, Glasgow Garage 3, Newcastle Riverside 4, Southampton Engine Rooms 5. Support: Torche, God Damn.

RICKY WARWICK & THE FIGHTING HEARTS
O2 Academy3 Birmingham November 12, O2 Academy2 Sheffield 13, O2 Academy2 Leicester 15, Edinburgh Bannermans 16, Newcastle Riverside 17, Chester Live Rooms 18, Grimsby Yardbirds 19, Norwich Waterfront Studio 20, London O2 Academy Islington 22, O2 Academy2 Oxford 23. Support: Vice Squad.

SABATON
Dublin Vicar Street January 10 2017, O2 Academy Glasgow 11, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, London O2 Academy Brixton 14. Support: Accept.

THRICE
Support added: Milk Teeth.

NOTHING BUT THIEVES

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3. **Take one step at a time**
   Don't feel pressurised or rush into decisions, pace yourself
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EDITORIAL

WHAT MAIDEN SONG WOULD YOU COVER, AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT?

EDITOR: James McMahon *(Fear Of The Dark. Lounge pop-style. Andy Williams on vocals. Pan's People prancing about)*
DEPUTY EDITOR: George Garner *(The Fugitive. With Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones)*
ART EDITOR: Steve Beech *(Run To The Hills… Flute Step version)*
PRODUCTION EDITOR: Ryan Cooper *(The Wicker Man screamed from the top of a burning wicker man, with Nicolas Cage)*
FEATURES EDITOR: Sam Coare (*Hallowed Be Thy Name. Kazoo!)*
PICTURE EDITOR: Scarlet Borg *(Can I Play With Madness in the style of Kraftwerk)*
ASSOCIATE EDITOR (REVIEWS): Nick Ruskell *(A four-hour doom version of Empire Of The Clouds)*
NEWS EDITOR: Jennyfer J. Walker *(Yawning Can I Play With Madness)*
DEPUTY ART EDITOR: Matt Dykzeul *(The Number Of The Beast barked by a dog)*
NEW MUSIC EDITOR/EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/SUB: Emily Carter *(I don't care what song, but I'd make Brian Fallon sing it)*
DESIGNER: Sophie Bland *(The Trooper remixed by the 'Gastric-Band')*

LISTINGS EDITOR: James Hingle *(The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner with Seasick Steve guesting on the banjo)*
CONTRIBUTING ED: Katie Parsons *(The Number Of The Beast – played on six children's xylophones, six times over by six cats)*

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THANKS TO: James Hickie *(Wildest Dreams on the recorder)*

INTERN OF THE WEEK: Rachel Harrison
For all work experience opportunities, check out GoThinkBig.co.uk.

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VIC FUENTES

PIERCE THE VEIL

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ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

HAVE YOU EVER SHED BLOOD IN THE NAME OF ROCK'N'ROLL?

"Yes. We played a lot of small shows growing up, where everyone would be moshing right in front of us. As a singing guitar player, I have a mic stand, and it would just nail me in the face. I've cut my lip quite a few times, chipped all my front teeth, you know, and that's all from the microphone getting slammed in my face. The worst injury ever was when I rolled my ankle on tour in the UK. I was onstage and just twisted it wrong. I chipped a piece of bone and tore some ligaments in my ankle. It sucked!"

WHAT'S THE MOST DAMAGE YOU'VE EVER BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR?

"I was driving us after a show, and I hit a low bridge and knocked off the whole top of our RV. I took off the AC unit and everything fell into the street. And then it rained for a week… It was when we first started touring and I didn't know that New Jersey had low bridges. I did not expect that a bridge would take off your roof, but it did! I was mad at myself – the damage was probably about $5,000!"

WHAT'S THE SPOOKIEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO YOU ON THE ROAD?

"There's a place called The Masquerade in Atlanta that's supposedly haunted. I always chalk up any hauntings to more logical things, though. I'm not a big ghost-believer, but you can definitely feel a bit of a creepy vibe. Apparently there were a lot of deaths and stuff that happened in there [in the past]."

And when are you planning on releasing this bad horror film you're pitching here?

FAILURES AND F'UPS...

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST CROWD YOU'VE EVER SCREWED UP IN FRONT OF ONSTAGE?

"On one of our last tours, we were playing in front of a few thousand people. I have a wireless microphone, and we were getting ready to go on and I couldn't find my microphone. I was yelling at the crew, they were running around the whole venue trying to find it, we walked onstage, and I was like, 'WHERE'S THE MIC?' I wasn't singing, looking for it, and then I reached back and it was in my pocket. And I was the one who put it there! I felt really embarrassed. I had to casually slip it out of my pocket and carry on."

WHAT PIERCE THE VEIL SONG WOULD YOU GIVE TO A COMPILATION ALBUM CALLED 'WORLD'S CRAPPEST SONGS'?

"Probably our cover of Bruno Mars' Just The Way You Are. It's cool, but I look back on it now and I think it's probably one of the more lame things that we've done, just covering a pop song. I still think it's kinda cool, but out of all the things we've done, I wouldn't pick one of our own, because I love our songs. They're like my babies!"

Not that much like babies, surely? Unless your songs have crapped and puked on you while crying their heads off?

LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH & FAMOUS...

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST BAR TAB YOU'VE EVER RUN UP?

"There was a time when me and Mikey [Chapman, Mallory Knox frontman] were out and I bought us both drinks. I wanted him to have Scotch 'cause he had never had it and I was telling him about it. So, I bought these drinks and it ended up costing, like, $200, just because it was super-old Scotch or something like that. There was no menu, the barmaid was just like, 'We have Macallan 25,' or something like that. I was just like, 'Oh yeah, let's do it, I'm gonna splurge!' And I didn't expect that. I got the bill and I just hid it from him, he didn't know. It was worth it, though."

WHO'S THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON IN YOUR PHONEBOOK?

"John Oates from ['70s U.S. radio rockers] Hall & Oates. I got to interview John Oates – he's one of my rock heroes. I texted him once after the interview and I told him I was gonna send him the link to my video of me being him for Hallowe'en, and he's responded saying that I do a good impression of him."

You should hear the one he does of you looking for a microphone, mate…

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

WOULD YOU RATHER FAIL BY JUST BEING YOURSELF, OR TRY HARD AND MAYBE SUCCEED AT SOMETHING?

"I think it's important to be yourself. Don't try so hard to impress other people, because that's too exhausting! And it won't work at the end of the day – you need to be true to yourself. And that's what people will really find interesting about you."

YOU CAN DO THREE NIGHTS AT WEMBLEY STADIUM, AND THEN NEVER PLAY A SHOW AGAIN. OR PLAY 300-CAP GIGS FOREVER. WHICH DO YOU CHOOSE?

"Oh, definitely the small clubs. Those are the most fun. Those are where the most unexpected things happen. I would love to play a big show like Wembley, though."

You can be just like Bon Jovi – 'I've seen 300 faces, and I've rocked them all…'

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

HOW BIG IS THE UNIVERSE, IN INCHES?

"The universe is infinite inches. I remember when I learnt about the universe in my chemistry class, and it sort of made me feel really small. It's sort of a sad thing to learn about because it's basically teaching you that you don't matter. I really hate that!"

Sorry, mate, you're American aren't you? What's that in kilometres?

THE VERDICT

VIC, WHEN YOU COME TO THE UK, WE'RE GOING DRINKING WITH YOU. YOU'RE BUYING…

SCORE 81%

THE LEADERBOARD

1	**AL JOURGENSEN** *MINISTRY*	100%
2	**ALICE COOPER**	99%
3	**BEN BRUCE** *ASKING ALEXANDRIA*	98%
4	**GENE SIMMONS** *KISS*	93%
5	**CHAD NICEFIELD** *WILSON*	92%
6	**MORTIIS**	90%
7	**BERT McCRACKEN** *THE USED*	86%
8	**BRENDON URIE** *PANIC! AT THE DISCO*	85%
9	**BRIAN MOLKO** *PLACEBO*	84%
10	**DERYCK WHIBLEY** *SUM 41*	83%
11	**VIC FUENTES** *PIERCE THE VEIL*	81%
12	**DENIS STOFF** *ASKING ALEXANDRIA*	73%
13	**TUOMAS HOLOPAINEN** *NIGHTWISH*	70%
14	**CHRIS ROBERTSON** *BLACK STONE CHERRY*	52%

WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

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